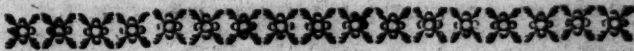


T H E  
C A P T I V E.

VOL. I.





THE  
CAPTIVE;  
OR, THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
MR. CLIFFORD.

Translated from the FRENCH.

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IN TWO VOLUMES.

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VOL. I.

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M. DCCLXXI:

THE  
CAPTIVITY  
OF THE  
HISTORICAL



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VOL. I.

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**T H E**  
**C A P T I V E.**

 **I**R Robert Clifford was a man of family and fortune in the west of England, the latter of which he had considerably impaired in the service of his royal master, King Charles the First. His son Richard, the hero of the present narrative, was born during the troubles; happy enough in this respect that he saw not his country torn to pieces by civil divisions and commotions, they

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**B**

being

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being entirely at an end, by the time that he came to years of maturity : I shall pass over the several occurrences of his childhood, in which there was nothing extraordinary, and introduce him to my readers, at that age in which he was sent to travel, with which he was not displeased in the least; inasmuch as it not only varied the scene, but gave him likewise some respite from the continual importunities of his parents, who were daily pressing him to marry ; a state which he had naturally an aversion to, and which was not a little increased by the repeated solicitations which were made to him upon that subject. He took his valet with him who had lived with him from a boy ; and, having given the necessary orders for his journey, he set out at the most proper season in the year for his expedition. He  
design'd

## THE CAPTIVE. 3

design'd to visit most of the courts in Europe; and beginning with those of France and Italy, he next set out for that of Spain.

There are some people so entirely over-ruled by fortune, that it should seem she took a pleasure in crossing and hindering their designs. She was preparing for Mr. Clifford, the tour of Africa; whereas he himself only intended to confine himself to a sight of Europe. Tunis was the place mark'd out among others for his abode for a time. The tour he was going to take was rather long, but when once fortune intermeddles, there is always somewhat extraordinary accompanies the interposition; and, indeed, upon consideration, we shall find that we know her only in the extremes.

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It was but the twelfth day after his departure that this inexperience'd youth but too fatally saw that the dangers of the seas were light and trivial, when compared with others he was to be exposed to; and that men were much more to be dreaded than the elements.

The weather hitherto had been exceeding fine, the wind was very favourable, and he was beginning to congratulate himself upon the success of his journey. The Italian coast is a little dangerous, but more especially so in summer, being much infested with pirates who live by plunder; so that in fine weather, unless ships are well mann'd and able to cope with them, they may account themselves very fortunate who escape their hands.

My readers, by this time, I imagine, begin to conjecture, that the people I  
have

## THE CAPTIVE. 5

have been speaking of are no other than Barbary Corsairs.

Mr. Clifford, who did not set out from England with an intention of being led in triumph to Tunis, found himself, however, hail'd at break of day by a brig of that nation. The sailors were immediately alarmed. The sight of a single turban was sufficient to put them into great consternation. Scarce had the Turk fired three of their guns when they all threw themselves into the sea, in order to save themselves by swimming. Mr. Clifford and his valet were the only persons that staid in the vessel : not that he entertained the least hope of being able to encounter so superior a force; for, in order to that, the famous arm of Rolandus, or the fabled strength of the Gauls, would have been requisite : the truth was,

## 6 THE CAPTIVE.

that he could not follow the example of the sailors because he could not swim; and retaining some liking for life, he thought it more adviseable to submit to slavery than rashly to drown himself. However, in order to shew the Corsairs what sort of a man he was, and to sell them his liberty as dearly as he could, he ordered his valet to throw all his baggage over-board, and then punctually to observe what he should command him to do.

I shall not detain my readers with a description of this action, altho' it was accounted one of the most famous that ever happened on the Mediterranean: it consisted of two men only against thirty, six of whom were killed, and many others wounded. It was a combat of a number of wolves against two young lions, who defended themselves  
with

## THE CAPTIVE. 7

with a valour and intrepidity that can hardly be equalld, but can never surely be exceeded. It is true, indeed, that the Turks, who spared them a little that they might not lose the money for their ransom, made use of sticks only at the beginning; but at length, the death and blood of their companions, and the shame at seeing so long and obstinate a defence of two Christians against such a number, inflamed their rage, and made them have recourse to their scimitars; which had such an effect, that the valet being killed, and Mr. Clifford quite spent rather than at all disheartened, and having besides been wounded in two or three places, he was oblig'd to submit. not being able to lift up his arm.

It was some time before the Turks ventured to board him, which they did,

## 8 THE CAPTIVE.

not do till they perceived that he was laying flat on the deck. They then put him on board their own vessel, and us'd all possible means for his recovery, having no other sign of the victory they had gained than the capture of so brave a man, who had cost them too dear to reflect any honour upon them. They all beheld him with the utmost surprize, not being able to conceive how so young a man could have such undaunted resolution, or how so delicate a frame of body could contain such strength, as to be able to make the resistance he had shewn. As they are naturally very superstitious, they concluded, that there was something supernatural in this young man, or that at least there was something very extraordinary and uncommon in him. This conjecture enabled them to bear  
the

## THE CAPTIVE. 9

the better their shameful victory, and as they found themselves at present deficient of hands, and had already taken some considerable prizes, they resolved to return back to Tunis.

The weather continued very favourable for them; so that, after some days sail, they arrived safe in harbour, where, having unladed the vessel, they put Mr. Clifford upon a horse tied and bound as if he had been a thief, and conducted him towards the town. Some of the men who had already got thither, had spread such a report of his valour and resolution, that it drew the inhabitants out of their houses to behold a man of whom they had received so extraordinary an account; and this is the more remarkable, as there are but very few things that have attraction sufficient to excite their curiosity. Even the

10 THE CAPTIVE.

Dey, accompanied with many of his friends, came out to see him. They had imagined to themselves that his aspect had something very dreadful and terrible; but what was their surprize when they beheld a young man, who, tho' pale and languishing, had notwithstanding an air of grandeur! The whole town pitied him, and the Dey, who was remarkably generous and good natured, was so enraged against the villains who had bound him in that cruel manner, and that too so undeservedly, that he ordered them instantly to loose him, unless they chose rather to experience the fatal effects of his displeasure. He was immediately obeyed, they not daring to resist his authority. He then ask'd them what ransom they would take for their slave, and, having taken him home, he gave them five hundred piasters, which

## THE CAPTIVE. II

which was the sum they demanded for him. Mr. Clifford, who was much rejoiced at falling into the hands of so generous a patron, began to come a little to himself. He was immediately put into a very fine apartment, where the Dey's surgeons came and dressed his wounds, and where, being much better attended than he had been on board the vessel, he grew much better. He was extremely weak and low with what he had undergone from the pirates, who, having no sentiments of compassion, took no manner of care of him. However his life was not at all endangered, his fever was not high, and the surgeons hoped, in a few days, that his recovery would be compleated. The Dey visited him frequently: and his concern and esteem for him increased in proportion.

## 12 THE CAPTIVE.

portion to his being better acquainted and more constantly with him.

But, before I proceed any further, it may not perhaps be disagreeable, or beside the purpose, to give a short account of the Dey.

He was the son of a renegade of the island of Corsica, who became, by his accomplishments and exploits, the favourite of his prince, and who conducted himself so well that he was raised to some of the highest employments in the kingdom.

But without enlarging any further upon the subject, let it be sufficient to say, that the young man, having had some quarrel with the Divan, who were jealous of the power which his father formerly had, and therefore were willing to divide the important posts between two people, instead of entrusting

## THE CAPTIVE. 13

entrusting them to the care and management of the same person, he went to the Grand Seignior, who gave him the Deyship of Tunis, which he executed with great faithfulness and integrity. He was one of that kind of men who are fit for every thing. He was brave, honest, and magnificent, as far as his abilities would permit him. He kept up a civil intercourse with most of the courts of Europe. He sent yearly rich presents to the Great Duke of Tuscany, and had, likewise, annual returns from thence. No Dey acquired so great a reputation so deservedly as he did. In short, he had the soul of a Prince and of an honest valuable man. He was greatly pleased with the appearance of Mr. Clifford, took great delight in his conversation, and used often to sit with him three or four hours at a time, talking

## 14 THE CAPTIVE.

ing very familiarly with him, and without the least reserve. What astonished him the most was, that, upon every subject of discourse, he found him exceedingly knowing. He used to speak of him to his friends with the highest commendations, and that too with so tender an affection that he prepossessed the nobility of the kingdom greatly in his favour, who came in form and visited him, making him at the same time several rich presents, according to the custom of that country.

The Dey rightly enough concluded, from the several bright qualifications that he discovered in Mr. Clifford, that he was a person of no mean condition, yet he had hitherto purposely avoided asking him any questions upon that head, being unwilling to recall to his mind those circumstances which it was  
most

## THE CAPTIVE. 15

most adviseable for him to forget, at least for a time, while he remained in his present distempered and weak condition.

Mr. Clifford, on the other hand, did not dare to tell him, fearing that the real knowledge of his situation in life might render his ransom the higher, and, consequently the more difficult; and yet, after all the favours he had received from the Dey, he was of opinion, that he could not any longer conceal his circumstances from a man to whom he was indebted for more than his life without the imputation of ingratitude. In order to this, therefore, when the Dey was asking him one morning, whether he had not left some friends and relations in his own country, and why he had not wrote to them, "My Lord," said he, "I should be the most abandoned

done"

## 16 THE CAPTIVE.

“ done creature on the face of the  
“ earth were I ever to forget the feve-  
“ ral obligations that I owe you, or if  
“ I did not endeavour to make you all  
“ the returns that are in my power.  
“ I own freely to you, and I hope you  
“ will forgive me, that I have not dis-  
“ closed myself wholly to you: the  
“ reason of which was, lest the price  
“ of my ransom should be enhanced  
“ by the knowledge of my circumstan-  
“ ces. But after the continual experi-  
“ ence that I daily have of your gene-  
“ rocity, after the many favours which  
“ you have heaped upon me, I can-  
“ not any longer conceal from you  
“ that I am a man of family and fa-  
“ shion in England; and this I do, that  
“ you may not lose any of the right  
“ which you most undoubtedly have  
“ over me as your slave. My name  
“ is

## THE CAPTIVE. 17

“ is Clifford, and if you never give me  
“ my liberty, I ought in duty to pay you  
“ my ransom, by acknowledging at  
“ least the several favours which I have  
“ received.”

The Dey, at the conclusion of this speech, smiled, and with a look of infinite tenderness embracing him; “ Mr. Clifford” said he, “ the knowledge  
“ which you have been pleased to impart to me of your circumstances,  
“ shall not be of the least detriment to you, I assure you. I do not traffick  
“ in slaves, neither did I buy you to sell you again. You are at your own  
“ disposal. You shall live with me here just as if you were in your own  
“ country among all your friends and acquaintance. And if I do keep you  
“ a little longer than perhaps otherwise you would wish, the only reason will  
“ be,

## 18 THE CAPTIVE.

“be, because I shall find it a very difficult matter to part with one for whom I have conceived a great esteem and affection.” He said a number of very civil and tender things besides, which were so exceeding agreeable to Mr. Clifford that they comforted him, and in a manner compensated for all that affliction which the loss of his liberty had formerly occasioned.

As soon as Mr. Clifford was fully recovered both in health and strength, he made one in all the parties of pleasure with the Dey, whether hunting, or walking, or tilting, where he always distinguished himself greatly above the rest of the company. No Christian ever signalized himself so much in that country, either before or since. There was no body but was extremely glad either to pay or receive visits from him;  
this,

## THE CAPTIVE. 19

this, had he been of their country or persuasion, would not have been so remarkable, but in one of a different religion, nay of a religion of which they were the open and avowed enemies, was astonishing. This is a proof of the great force of desert, and that nothing can resist the influence of a happy destiny.

The esteem which the Dey publicly professed for Mr. Clifford contributed not a little to his advantageous and favourable reception; but his own person, and the mild and affable manner with which he behaved towards all, had the greatest effect, and procured him the friendship of men of fortune and reputation. And yet so strong is that desire implanted in man towards his native country, that all these valuable acquaintance, all these distinguishing marks of respect

## 20 THE CAPTIVE.

respect and affection which he was continually receiving, did not hinder him from earnestly wishing himself at home. It is true, he lived at his own disposal, but then he was a slave to the Dey's esteem and affection; from which he judged it to be a much more difficult matter to withdraw, than from the chain which would otherwise have confined him.

As he did not find among the people of this nation the person that he wanted, he pined and grew very weary of their conversation. The Turks in general are a very sensible people, and talk well enough on common occurrences; they are even skilful, cunning and refined politicians; but, as to politeness and delicacy, they are utterly strangers to them. Their discourse is very barren, or rather like a vapour, which is seen  
indeed

## THE CAPTIVE. 21

indeed for a time, but quickly passes away. They have but a very superficial knowledge of the subjects on which they converse, because they read but little, and seldom if ever stir out of their own country. The Dey alone had more understanding than all the rest put together, but Mr. Clifford could not always be in company with him; the important post which he held in the state engaging him in much business, which necessarily took up a great deal of his time.

In the mean while, Mr. Clifford used to spend many hours in the garden belonging to the Seraglio where the Dey had given him leave to walk. The place was retired, and upon that account, very agreeable to him. He used to spend part of every day here in thinking on his own situation, which  
generally

## 32 THE CAPTIVE.

generally ended in ardent wishes that it might be changed. This solitude made him melancholy.

His patron, who had a great regard for him, and who wished to see him always in good humour, was a great deal concern'd at beholding him so thoughtful and uneasy. As he let him want for nothing that the country afforded, in order to render his life comfortable and agreeable, he could not conceive what could be the reason of his present disquiet; and while he was continually endeavouring to find it out, it came into his mind, that conversation with women was what he so passionately long'd after, and that the want of which had hitherto been the cause of his anxiety.

As he was a man of great gallantry, he had no difficulty in persuading himself that was the true cause of his melancholy.

## THE CAPTIVE. 23

choly. This misfortune, however, he rightly judged was not incurable, and, in order to remedy it, he determined to look out for a mistress for him. This was carrying his complaisance a good way indeed, especially considering the dignity of his character, but the friendship that he had for Mr. Clifford knew no bounds.

The Mahometan law is very severe on this head, with respect to people of other persuasions, how indulgent soever it may be to those of its own. When any one is found with a Turkish woman, they must either change their religion or be impaled alive. These two extremes are hard indeed, but altho' several christians have been unfortunately discovered, not one, that I ever heard of, ever submitted to the fire, choosing

## 24 THE CAPTIVE.

choosing rather to be circumcised than to burn.

There lived in the service of the Dey's wife an Italian slave, a girl of fashion, extremely handsome, and very sensible. The Dey had made professions of love to her a little while before, but without reaping any success; either prevented by the regard which she had for her mistress, who had likewise a great esteem for her, or on account of some scruples of conscience upon which she excused herself. In short, whatever was the reason, the fact is certain, that, after having paid his court to her for three months in vain, not being accustomed to meet with such resistance, the Dey left her, in order to pursue easier conquests. He was however in hopes that Mr. Clifford, being a Christian, might succeed better, and that his person and youth would

## THE CAPTIVE. 25

would have a more especial influence. He design'd to prejudice this haughty girl in Mr. Clifford's favour, by commending him several times before her, which he took occasion to do several times in his wife's chamber before Charlotte; (that was her name) but now since he had entertain'd the design of introducing Mr. Clifford, he scarce ever spoke of any thing else. Mr. Clifford was always doing this or that, he would say; in short, he gave so agreeable a description of him, that a woman of the least taste must in a manner necessarily have fallen in love with him by hearsay.

Mr. Clifford knew nothing of what the Dey was doing for him, except that he told him sometimes, between jest and earnest, when he saw him very

## 26 THE CAPTIVE.

dull, that he would soon be in another temper. This was carried on so well, that, one day, when he thought that he had sufficiently prejudiced Charlotte in his favour, who declared to him that she should be glad to see this Christian, he took Mr. Clifford with him into the garden of the Seraglio, and, after having walked a turn or two, ask'd him if he had ever been in love. This question startled Mr. Clifford a little, who imagined that, as he was in a country of a very suspicious, jealous people, the Dey might have grown jealous of him, although he was conscious that he had never given him the least occasion for it. From thence he concluded it necessary, in order to undeceive him, to pretend a great indifference for women, and indeed, till that time, the truth was, that he had never been in love. But  
this

## THE CAPTIVE. 27

this was not the way to pay his court to one who was naturally of a very amorous disposition. However, he chose rather to appear indifferent, than to give the Dey the least room for suspicion. The Dey desired him to take care of himself, that love would one time or other take ample vengeance of him, and that, as to his part, he did not despair of seeing him in love in that country. "You are young," continued he, "and well made, and do not want for sense. There are as dangerous ladies here as there are in Europe, who may probably have formed some designs against your liberty, and you must consider that you have not as yet left Tunis."

So unusual, and so unexpected a conversation, together with the air with

28 THE CAPTIVE.

which the Dey spoke to him, embarrassed Mr. Clifford so much, that he was at a loss for some time what answer he should make. The Dey was vastly pleased at the confusion that he saw he had thrown him into. "What," said he, "does love seem so formidable an adversary to you, that you fly from it? Are you, who in other instances have given such undoubted proofs of your courage, no bolder on this occasion? Be of good cheer, and rest assured, that love is not so dangerous in this country, as it is in yours. If with you he is armed with darts, with us he is only covered with flowers. Nothing is more mild than love among the Turks. The women are very compassionate: no man, that ever I knew or heard of, died for want of their pity or assistance."

## THE CAPTIVE. 29

“ance. The only difficulty is in gain-  
 “ing access to them, which being  
 “once done all the rest follows of  
 “course, and is attended with little or  
 “no trouble. The law of nature is  
 “chiefly and primarily observed here,  
 “even in preference to that of Maho-  
 “met. We owe care and tenderness  
 “to female beauty, which we ought to  
 “return by complaisance and assist-  
 “ance. They who do not approve of  
 “these maxims deserve never to taste  
 “of the pleasures of love. I know,”  
 continued he, “that you Europeans  
 “treat this passion in a very extraordi-  
 “nary manner; that you make a mar-  
 “tyrdom of that which is the object of  
 “our pleasure; but I should be glad to  
 “know what can be the real intention  
 “of that woman who permits a lover  
 “to be all day long sighing before  
C 3
“ her,

30 THE CAPTIVE.

“ her, who desires the very same thing  
“ as he does, perhaps in a greater de-  
“ gree, and with more vehemence;  
“ for the passions have equal influence,  
“ at least, upon both sexes. Why  
“ then should the lover be permitted to  
“ sigh and languish for so considerable  
“ a length of time? Can that be the real  
“ intention and end of love?”

Mr. Clifford, who had an opportunity of composing and recollecting himself during this long harangue, made the following reply :

“ I believe it is with respect to love  
“ as it is with most other things, every  
“ one has his particular taste and  
“ maxims ; but, if I may be permitted  
“ to give my opinion in the matter,  
“ altho’ I was never in love in my  
“ life, yet I will first lay this down as a  
“ certain

## THE CAPTIVE. 31

" certain rule, that, when any one is  
 " born under a certain law, custom  
 " easily reconciles him to the bearing  
 " it without any irksomeness or trou-  
 " ble : but farther still I add, and I  
 " am sure it is true, that there is more  
 " sweetness, and there are many more  
 " charms to be found in the midst of  
 " the torments which we suffer, than in  
 " all that profusion of pleasure which  
 " you obtain with little or no difficulty.  
 " Do not fancy, my Lord, that all  
 " those evils and sufferings, which you  
 " have so pathetically described, are so  
 " terrible as you represent them : no,  
 " they serve as means to sooth and  
 " soften the hearts of our mistresses,  
 " and consequently must be pleasing.  
 " No wonder then is it to hear a lover  
 " cry out. Double, oh love, double a  
 " pain so dear !"

## 32 THE CAPTIVE.

The Dey was very well pleased to hear Mr. Clifford talk in this manner, and therefore being unwilling to give him any interruption, he proceeded in the following manner.

“What satisfaction can we possibly find in a love which is insipid, which has not the least poignancy to recommend it, and which has no pains to prepare us for the pleasures that are to succeed?”

The Dey could not help laughing at Mr. Clifford, and told him, that if he wanted really to convince him that that love which caused the greatest sufferings was the most agreeable, he ought to make the experiment upon himself: that he ought to fall in love, that he might have an opportunity of seeing him.

## THE CAPTIVE. 33

him suffer all those evils with pleasure which he had been describing.

"Since I have not fallen in love," replied Mr. Clifford, "in my own country, where we have an opportunity of conversing freely with women, you may easily believe that I shall not here, where we are not permitted so much as to see them."

"I can easily contrive to remove that impediment," said the Dey, "if you are desirous of it."

"I do not want to sacrifice my life," said Mr. Clifford, "upon so trifling an occasion."

"No, no," said the Dey. "the person I mean is a Christian whom I

### 34 THE CAPTIVE.

“ will introduce to your acquaintance :  
 “ a person whom I thought once very  
 “ handsome, and who is by no means  
 “ unworthy your regard. Had I been  
 “ of your method of thinking, and  
 “ loved after the manner of the lovers of  
 “ your country, I could not have  
 “ pitched upon a properer person for  
 “ the purpose, for she made me lan-  
 “ guish a whole three months ; but at  
 “ length, being quite tired out at find-  
 “ ing her so insensible of my passion,  
 “ and so unwilling to make any return  
 “ to it, I had recourse to others who  
 “ were more suitable to my own dis-  
 “ position. You will be vastly pleased  
 “ with the sprightliness of her under-  
 “ standing, but then she is haughty and  
 “ as cruel as you could wish her ; in  
 “ short she is one that will do for you  
 “ extremely well. The seeing her  
 “ will

## THE CAPTIVE. 35

“ will be attended with some difficulty,  
“ because she is the Sultana’s maid,  
“ who, ever since she has perceived  
“ that I had an inclination for her,  
“ has not permitted her to stir out of  
“ her apartment; but I will introduce  
“ you disguised like an eunuch, which  
“ indeed is the only dress in which you  
“ can enter the seraglio. You are  
“ young, and by night will easily pass  
“ for one.”

Mr. Clifford thanked him a thousand times for his kind offer; not but that he could very well have dispensed with receiving this new obligation, having no great mind to make any acquaintance in a country which he intended to quit as soon as he could. Yet the complaisance which he owed to the Dey, and the curiosity which he had to

### 36 THE CAPTIVE.

see the slave of whom so exquisite a description had been given, made him accept the proposal with a kind of joy. He went therefore to his patron in the evening, at the hour in which he used most commonly to go into the seraglio. He put on a Eunuch's dress, which had been prepared for him, and followed the Dey into the Sultana's apartment.

As soon as they came in, they found Charlotte, who, having been told of their intended visit, was expecting them. The Dey went up to her smiling, and whispered her that he had brought an eunuch to her who could possibly give her some information of Europe, that he desired her to take care of him, and to treat him as a person for whom he had the utmost respect and affection.

Charlotte

## THE CAPTIVE. 37

Charlotte smiled likewise, and told him, that she would take great care of him. Mr. Clifford, notwithstanding his disguise, was so easily known that, had the Dey said nothing, Charlotte would have discovered him by the dignity of his appearance. There was not only no eunuch, but, it may be affirmed, there was no Turk, so handsome, or had so graceful a mien.

Charlotte gave him her hand to lead him into another room, that they might be less exposed to the observation of those who might be passing by.

“Sir,” said she to him, “I really know not what return I can make to the Dey for the favour he has done me in introducing you. For he alone, and the eunuchs, whose dress  
“he

38 THE CAPTIVE.

“ he has put you on, are permitted to  
“ come into these apartments. I can  
“ only attribute it to the greatness of  
“ that affection which he both pro-  
“ fesses and has for you.”

“ It is true indeed, madam,” answered Mr. Clifford, “ that the Dey’s  
“ esteem for me is great, but if either  
“ of us should be at a loss what return  
“ to make to him, surely I am the per-  
“ son who can never sufficiently re-  
“ pay him for the favour which he has  
“ this day conferred upon me, by blef-  
“ sing me with a sight of you. I could  
“ wish,” continued he, “ that all the  
“ thanks were not due to him alone,  
“ for this blessing, but that yourself  
“ had contributed in some measure to  
“ it, as he has endeavoured to make  
“ me believe.”

“ I will

## THE CAPTIVE. 39

“ I will not,” said Charlotte, “ conceal the truth, I did hint to him that  
“ I should take it as a particular favour if he would introduce you. We  
“ have heard so much of you to your  
“ praise, and he himself has told such  
“ extraordinary and amazing stories of  
“ you, that one must have little or no  
“ curiosity indeed, especially considering that I am young and have been  
“ immured here these three years without seeing a soul but the Dey and  
“ his family, had I not been desirous of  
“ being acquainted with one who is so  
“ generally praised and esteemed as  
“ you are.”

“ Madam,” said Mr. Clifford, “ this  
“ country has been particularly favourable to me in giving me a reputation which I fear it will be attended

40 THE CAPTIVE.

"tended with a good deal of difficulty  
"to keep up to, especially with one of  
"your penetration."

"You cannot surely," replied Charlotte, "have any apprehensions upon  
"that account: your appearance is a sufficient confirmation of the truth of  
"what has been reported concerning  
"you. But do you know," continued she, smiling, "that it is sometimes very  
"dangerous to have so good a character among a strange people? If  
"this is not the case with men, yet it  
"is very much so with women, who  
"are apt to become enamoured even  
"on hearsay."

"You are not one of those persons  
"madam," said Mr. Clifford: "my  
"happiness would be too compleat, if  
"that were the case." "Why

THE CAPTIVE. 41

“Why may not I,” said she, “be  
“one, since I have all along been so  
“desirous of seeing you? No no,” con-  
tinued she, without giving him time  
to make any reply, “we have no time  
“to lose, all I have to say is, that you  
“are much more fortunate than you  
“think yourself. I do for another  
“person what in all probability I  
“should not chuse to do for myself.  
“The mere desire to see a man, is ac-  
“counted here a great indication of  
“being in love. And yet I have ex-  
“posed myself to this, and have, per-  
“haps, made the Dey believe that I  
“was very much prejudiced in your  
“favour. But, in short, not to keep  
“you any longer in suspense, the per-  
“son for whom I have shewed so much  
“complaisance is no less than the Sul-  
“tana, the Dey’s wife. She had suf-  
“ficient

42 THE CAPTIVE.

“ ficient confidence in me to disclose  
“ this important secret, and the re-  
“ gard that I have for her did not  
“ suffer me to hesitate at doing her this  
“ piece of service, as soon as I could  
“ find out a proper opportunity.

“ I suppose you have heard of her  
“ beauty, since she is the most famous  
“ one that ever appeared in this king-  
“ dom. As for her temper it is the  
“ mildest and most amiable that can  
“ possibly be imagined. At first sight  
“ of her you would say that she has a  
“ propensity to love, her air is so lan-  
“ guishing, and there is a tenderness  
“ which overspreads her whole coun-  
“ tenance. But, however, this is not  
“ extraordinary or uncommon, you  
“ may meet with it in most of the wo-  
“ men of this country; insomuch that,  
“ I believe,

THE CAPTIVE. 43

“I believe, the looking languishly is  
“one of the first things that they are  
“taught. And yet, notwithstanding  
“all this, I have never observed these  
“weaknesses, if sighs and languishing  
“looks are to be accounted such,  
“but when you were the occasion of  
“them.

“In order to give you a clear idea  
“of the whole, let me inform you,  
“that the Dey, upon his return from  
“Constantinople, being confirmed by  
“the Porte in the dignities his father  
“had left him, and which had been con-  
“tested with him by the King and the  
“Divan; the former was advised to re-  
“concile himself to the Dey, by of-  
“fering him his daughter in marriage,  
“who was then sixteen years of age,  
“and in the perfection of her beauty.

“But,

## 44 THE CAPTIVE.

“ But, alas ! those marriages which are  
 “ made with political views, and for  
 “ the sake of interest, are seldom happy.  
 “ The Dey married her, and liked her  
 “ perhaps for eight or ten days, but  
 “ then returned again to his former  
 “ courses, and left, for indifferent beau-  
 “ ties, one of the finest women upon  
 “ earth. It is true, indeed, that this  
 “ behaviour is but too common in this  
 “ country, where it is the fashion  
 “ amongst the men to like their mis-  
 “ tresses better than their wives, and  
 “ where they consider the obligation to  
 “ love them as trifling, and of no force.  
 “ This lady, however, as far as I am  
 “ able to judge, ought to be free from  
 “ any such insult, having graces enough  
 “ to content any man whom it is not  
 “ absolutely impossible to please. And  
 “ yet, notwithstanding all the accom-  
 “ plishments

# THE CAPTIVE. 45

"plishments which she is possessed of,  
 "she is neglected as well as the rest;  
 "for the Dey, who is otherwise of a very  
 "amorous disposition, scarce pays  
 "her a visit once in a month. Not  
 "but that he has the utmost respect  
 "and regard for her, and that, putting  
 "love out of the question, she has not  
 "the least reason to complain of him.  
 "But what is matrimony without love?  
 "You may easily judge what a mortifi-  
 "cation it must be to a young wo-  
 "man, who, knowing what she is, sees  
 "herself despised in that article in  
 "which she is the most deserv-  
 "ing. But leaving all these reason-  
 "ings aside, and to come to the matter  
 "in which you are more especially  
 "concerned, let me acquaint you, that  
 "the Sultana is greatly prejudiced in  
 "favour of the Christians, and that she  
 "takes

## 46 THE CAPTIVE.

“ takes great delight, when I am with  
 “ her, to make me tell her stories of my  
 “ own country, at which she is greatly  
 “ astonished, especially when I tell her  
 “ of the freedom with which the men  
 “ live with the women; infomuch that  
 “ she has frequently wished that her  
 “ situation in that respect resembled  
 “ mine, and that some honest Chris-  
 “ tian would take her and carry her  
 “ into that country. It is true, indeed,  
 “ that it would be much better for a  
 “ woman to be a slave among us, than  
 “ to be free among the Turks, because  
 “ their lives are nothing else but a per-  
 “ petual slavery. All the adventures  
 “ that I have related to her either of  
 “ love or gallantry have made so strong  
 “ an impression upon her, and given  
 “ her such a desire of seeing one of  
 “ those persons of rank and merit,  
 “ whom

THE CAPTIVE. 47

“ whom I have frequently described to  
“ her, that you were no sooner brought  
“ hither, but she came and told me,  
“ with an air of the utmost satisfaction,  
“ that the Dey had just bought a Chris-  
“ tian, of whom the most extraordinary  
“ exploits that were ever heard of  
“ were recounted. I immediately  
“ smiled, and asked, whether this was  
“ not one of that kind of men whose  
“ slave she would wish to become.  
“ She blushed, and sighing very deeply,  
“ Who knows, said she, turning her face  
“ another way, what may happen; and  
“ whether fortune has not sent him hi-  
“ ther on purpose for my relief and  
“ assistance? That night she made me  
“ lay with her in order to entertain her  
“ upon that subject, and on the mor-  
“ row the Dey having confirmed the  
“ report, which we had before heard  
“ of

48 THE CAPTIVE.

“ of you, and having also added many  
 “ commendations of your person, we  
 “ talked of nothing else for several days  
 “ together. As the friendship which she  
 “ has for me renders me familiar with  
 “ her, I used oftentimes to chide her, for  
 “ the great fondness which she expressed  
 “ for a man that she had never seen in her  
 “ whole life. I own, said she, that it  
 “ is rather too quick a proceeding, were  
 “ we to behave in love matters as you  
 “ Christians do one towards another;  
 “ but, after the description which the  
 “ Dey has given of him, there is no  
 “ woman in Tunis who would not be  
 “ as much prejudiced in his favour as  
 “ I am, if he had been so described to  
 “ them, and I will answer for it that  
 “ the Dey would not say half so much  
 “ of him to any of his mistresses as he  
 “ has to me. But as he neglects and  
 “ does

THE CAPTIVE. 49

" does not care much about me, he does  
" not take any pains to preserve my  
" affection. Should you think your-  
" self very happy, madam, said I,  
" if you was beloved by such a man as  
" the Dey has been describing to you?  
" Much happier, replied she, than  
" you can possibly have any idea of;  
" and I assure you I should prefer the  
" low condition of a Christian gentle-  
" woman to all that splendour and bril-  
" liancy in which I now so unhappily  
" live. For what advantage is it of,  
" said she, to be possessed of so much  
" wealth, to be the daughter of a king  
" and wife of a Dey, if I am still rest-  
" less and discontented notwithstanding  
" all this; if I cannot do what I like,  
" nor love the person whom I think de-  
" serves it most; in short, if I am  
" not that which every body believes

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" I am,

52 THE CAPTIVE.

“ I am, but rather a slave ten thousand  
 “ times more miserable than those who  
 “ are chained to the oar? Poor Char-  
 “ lotte, continued she, embracing me,  
 “ how I pity you! you, who have  
 “ tasted the sweets of liberty and of  
 “ your native country; to see you in a  
 “ place where women, of whatever  
 “ rank and condition they are, are  
 “ treated in a manner that is highly  
 “ unworthy of them! This is the sum  
 “ of the several conversations that we  
 “ have had since your arrival at Tunis.  
 “ The Dey, who used now to come and  
 “ see the Sultana more frequently than  
 “ before, without our being able to give  
 “ any reason for his so doing, was con-  
 “ tinually talking of you before us, and,  
 “ as he has a great esteem for you, gave  
 “ an account of and dwelt with pleasure  
 “ on all your transactions. Had he  
 “ known

## THE CAPTIVE. 51

“ known the effect which this account  
“ wrought in the heart of the Sultana,  
“ he would not, perhaps, have said so  
“ much: at least, I have good reason  
“ to believe that he did not imagine  
“ that, while he was saying so many  
“ handsome things of you, he was  
“ really prejudicing himself. You  
“ may easily believe that such faithful  
“ accounts, coming likewise from such  
“ undoubted authority, did not lose  
“ their effect. The Sultana was great-  
“ ly affected, inasmuch that what at  
“ first was only a small propensity,  
“ grew at length into a settled, con-  
“ firmed passion. Her temper, which  
“ till then had been quite even, and  
“ rather cheerful than otherwise, changed  
“ all on a sudden. She did nothing  
“ but sigh for some time, and I pitied  
“ her the more, being the only person

52 THE CAPTIVE.

“ that was privy to the real cause of  
 “ her concern. I was extremely ap-  
 “ prehensive that she would fall ill of a  
 “ distemper which is epidemical in  
 “ this country, a kind of melancholy,  
 “ with which both men and women  
 “ find themselves oftentimes so much  
 “ oppressed that it proves the cause of  
 “ their death. I endeavoured to cure  
 “ her of this unhappy passion, by re-  
 “ presenting all the several impedi-  
 “ ments which made it in a manner  
 “ impossible for her to be happy, but  
 “ it was too late; she had already  
 “ made the several objections that I  
 “ had, and what I said ended rather  
 “ to increase than to quench the flame.  
 “ So that, finding no remedy of that  
 “ kind was likely to have any effect,  
 “ I resolved to apply my care in some  
 “ other manner, and began to flatter  
 “ myself

THE CAPTIVE. 53

“ myself with hopes where I did not  
“ see the least probability of succeed-  
“ ing; but it became in a manner ne-  
“ cessary to deceive her, for fear the  
“ disease should become incurable.  
“ At last, I know not well how it came  
“ about, but the Dey having spoke of  
“ you to me about two days ago, as  
“ he does very often when he meets  
“ me alone, I insinuated that I should  
“ be extremely glad to see you, if it  
“ could be done secretly, and without  
“ giving any offence. I was quite  
“ astonished at the easiness with which  
“ he granted my request, and indeed  
“ I should never have expected it, had  
“ I not known that he was very punc-  
“ tual in performing his promises.”

Mr. Clifford heard Charlotte's  
discourse with the utmost attention

## 54 THE CAPTIVE.

and after having thanked her for the several good offices which she had done him, and replied to whatever she said to him as from the Sultana, he told the Dey's design in bringing him into the seraglio, with which Charlotte was extremely pleased, altho' she was well convinced that there might possibly be a mixture of self interest that contributed to the pleasure she felt, and that she might possibly prefer herself to all the satisfaction which her mistress would reap from so desired an interview. "But," continued she, "I must still farther inform you that, after having thanked the Dey for the favour which he had given me hopes of, I went and carried the news to the Sultana, who was so transported with joy, that she has not been able to sleep ever since. We had formed a

" thousand

## THE CAPTIVE. 55

“ thousand schemes, in order to con-  
“ trive some method for seeing you,  
“ but unless the Dey will suffer you  
“ to come alone, I am afraid that none  
“ of them will succeed. However, she  
“ will be exceedingly pleased at my  
“ having seen and told you, in part,  
“ what she both thinks and feels for  
“ you.”

The happy Mr. Clifford, charmed with the condescension of a person of the Sultana's rank and beauty, desired Charlotte to favour him on this occasion, and to say on his behalf, to the Sultana, all that a heart sensible of her favours could be supposed to feel, and express, in particular, that he should have thought himself the happiest creature upon earth if he could have deserved the honour that was intended

56 THE CAPTIVE.

him; but, however, that his utmost endeavours should not be wanting to make all the returns that were in his power.

“She only desires that you would make such use of the liberty granted you by the Dey,” replied she, “as that she may have an opportunity of seeing you once.”

“There are so many reasons,” answered Mr. Clifford, “that bind me to the observation of this request, that she may depend upon it that I will omit nothing that may any way contribute towards favouring this desire.”

While they were thus discoursing, in came the Dey, and put an end to their conversation.

## THE CAPTIVE. 57

conversation for the present. He joined them, and rallying them both with a deal of good humour, said, that he was sure, from both their countenances, that they were greatly obliged to him for the interview he had procured them. Mr. Clifford and Charlotte made suitable answers, upon which the Dey took his leave, and they both went out of the seraglio.

The Dey had remarked an unusual pleasure in Mr. Clifford's countenance, when he was with Charlotte, which made him conjecture that he was very well pleased with the visit that he had made. He was very curious to know how he liked her, and whether she was really as beautiful as he had before described her to him. Mr. Clifford answered, that it was impossible to see such a girl

## 58 THE CAPTIVE.

without being much pleased with her appearance, and that he liked both her person and conversation extremely. His patron, who desired nothing so much as to see him in love, was enraptured at this confession, and told him, that it depended only upon himself to see her whenever he pleased, and that if he had no objection to it he might the very next day; that he would give him the key of the seraglio and that he might go alone, because it was not usual for him to pay such frequent visits to the Sultana, who might probably suspect that they were intended rather to Charlotte than herself. Mr. Clifford told him that he was excessively obliged to him, upon which the Dey told him he might depend upon seeing Charlotte at the same hour of the evening he had seen her that day.

No

## THE CAPTIVE. 59

No one ever pass'd so restless a night as poor Mr. Clifford. The object of his desires was no less than the greatest and handsomest woman in the kingdom, two unusual and very engaging qualities to a young man of his disposition. All that Charlotte had said to him of the Sultana's prepossession in his favour was so agreeable to him, that he did not think there could then be a happier person in the world than himself. But when he came to reflect that this woman was the Dey's wife, a person to whom he laid under the highest obligations, he had a good deal of remorse, and these latter sentiments getting the better for a time he reproached himself for being so base as to think of such monstrous ingratitude. But however these reproaches had not always the same influence; so blinded are men when their

## 60 THE CAPTIVE.

own interest or pleasure comes in competition with their duty, that they seem to forget the one and attend to the other wholly and without regret. At last, after a violent struggle between love and duty, between honour and affection, he got up without having formed any settled resolution, any otherwise than that he determined to submit to his destiny whatsoever it was ; that is, to live after the Turkish manner, and see the Sultana if he was forced to it, but to do nothing himself towards it, altho' he had promised Charlotte to contribute and facilitate it as much as it lay in his power to do; and had told the Dey that it was with a good deal of pleasure that he proposed returning to the seraglio. At some times however he found these resolutions extremely weakened; indeed it is almost always useless to form any resolutions

## THE CAPTIVE. 61

tions in opposition to love. He wished a thousand times that it might be his fate to converse with the Sultana. He waited for the time with great impatience, tho' between whiles he persuaded himself that nothing would come of it.

Young men's hearts are seldom if ever insensible : every thing about them is combustible, so that they are no sooner once lighted, than the flame encreases presently.

In the evening, as soon as the Dey saw Mr. Clifford, he gave him the key of the seraglio, smiling, who received it with an extacy of joy.

"I only

## 62 THE CAPTIVE.

“ I only give it you,” said the Dey,  
“ on this condition, that you make me  
“ your confidant. I think,” continued he, “ that I have done enough for  
“ you hitherto to entitle me to this  
“ privilege.”

It was now time to go in, and Mr. Clifford having put on an eunuch's dress, his patron was so complaisant as to wait upon him to the door of the feraglio. Charlotte, who had been apprized of his coming, had been waiting for him at the door above an hour, and now no sooner saw him, but giving him her hand, with a freedom that denoted the excess of her joy, told him, that he was either one of the most skillful, or the most fortunate men alive ; that he got thro' difficulties with so much

## THE CAPTIVE. 63

much ease, that every thing seemed to contribute towards his happiness.

“ I am to thank fortune,” said Mr. Clifford, “ for what has hitherto happened; for as to my skill I assure you I have not made use of the least in this affair. But, if you are willing that I should believe myself to be as happy as you say I am, be so good as to introduce me to the Sultana.”

Charlotte told him, that he should hear from her very soon, and upon this she conducted him into a room where the Sultana used to see the ladies who came to visit her. There was a kind of alcove where she used to sit, and which could only be entered into but out of her apartment, it being closed by  
a silk

64 THE CAPTIVE.

a silk curtain, thro' which she could easily see her company when she had not a mind to be seen by them; a piece of grandeur which is very commonly practised in that country. Charlotte told Mr. Clifford that the Sultana would see him thro' the curtain.

“ Shall I not then,” said he, “ have the honour of seeing her?”

“ I do not know,” replied Charlotte; “ it is a very great favour, and one too that is not usually granted.”

“ Oh, madam,” said he, “ tell her I shall die, unless this request is granted me.”

Charlotte promised to use the utmost of her interest, and, leaving him for a little

## THE CAPTIVE. 65

little while, she went in to the Sultana, who was no doubt very impatient to be informed of the arrival of her dear Christian.

During this time Mr. Clifford amused himself with looking at the grandeur of the room, which was one of the most magnificent in the whole seraglio. It was lighted up with four large branches of chrystal, which produced a very fine effect on the gold and jewels which sparkled on every side of the room.

The Sultana no sooner saw Charlotte, than she knew by the expression of joy in her countenance, that she was bringing her the good news of Mr. Clifford's arrival; however, without staying to hear what she had a mind to say she rushed

## 66 THE CAPTIVE.

rushed into the alcove, in order, if possible, to have a view of him without being perceived herself. But she made too much noise at her first coming in to succeed in her design, and our hero let her know that he had perceived it, by saluting her after the Turkish manner. Charlotte came in at the same time on the other side, went up to the balustrade, and whispered the Sultana, who could not express the great pleasure that she took in beholding this Christian, and how delighted she was with his air and person. As to Mr. Clifford he was very much embarrassed in a visit of this nature, where he could neither see nor talk. They desired him to walk up and down, to turn himself about, and the like, all which he performed just as they would have him for some time; but being in a little while  
tired

## THE CAPTIVE. 67

tired of repeating the same motions over and over again, he went up to the balustrade, and addressing himself to the Sultana, whose shadow he could see on the other side of the curtain, he said a number of gallant obliging things to her in the Turkish language; for Mr. Clifford, by this time, was grown a great proficient in it. She took great pleasure in being able to understand what was said to her, and laughed very heartily, but did not answer a single syllable, and the curtain still remained in the same situation. Upon which the impatient Christian, who considered all this as so much time lost, pretended to be very angry, and accordingly told her, with an air of great ease and freedom, that he was going to die of the melancholic distemper of the country, if she did not grant him the request

## 68 THE CAPTIVE.

request which he had before made to her; and in short, that he would take hold of and remove this inconvenient curtain himself, as indeed he was going to do, had not Charlotte hindered him; but, in this instance, Charlotte was too officious, nor did her mistress give her any thanks for what she had done.

It is a maxim among the women of that country not to transgress the rules of their duty of their own accord; but if they are ever so little pressed to do it, if the least constraint is offered, they will yield, without any difficulty, or making much resistance. They most commonly excuse themselves on account of the weakness of their natures; that they are well known, and that, therefore, they ought not to be so much pressed.

## THE CAPTIVE. 69

pressed. That if there is any harm in what they do, it is not imputable to them, but to those who are the causes of their acting in that manner.

Charlotte, who was not so well grounded in this maxim as the Sultana, made an unfortunate mistake at the very time that she thought she was performing her duty. The amorous Sultana would have been very glad that Mr. Clifford should have had a fight of her, and this slave was going to spoil all, by a stroke of unseasonable prudence : but her mistress was willing to rectify the mistake, and satisfy, in some measure, the extreme desire that the Christian had to see her. She asked him what he wanted, in order to comfort him, on account of the rigorous customs of the country, which forbade the women

70 THE CAPTIVE.

men to shew themselves to any one else besides their husbands. Mr. Clifford desired that she would at least favour him with the sight of one of her beautiful hands. This the Sultana no sooner heard than she lifted up a corner of the curtain and put one of her hands through the balustrade. Mr. Clifford was so transported with this condescension, that, yielding to the present rapture, he knelt down on the ground, and applying her lovely hand to his mouth impressed many a tender kiss upon it, and that with such ardour that the Sultana was much pleased with his behaviour, and squeezed his hand in token of her approbation: as she was not much upon the reserve, nor over-studious of concealing herself from Mr. Clifford, by degrees great part of her was seen.

The

## THE CAPTIVE. 71

The young gentleman would have been overjoyed indeed to have had a full view of her, but as he thought that he had gone far enough, considering it was the first interview, he did not presume to press her any more upon that subject. The Sultana was so delighted, both with seeing and hearing him, that she could willingly have staid there the whole night; but as the people of that country are exceedingly suspicious, and more especially so with regard to women, she was afraid that the persons who were continually about her might form some conjectures that would not be much to her advantage from her staying so long in the alcove, particularly, as that was not a usual time to receive visits in. Charlotte likewise told her that it was time to withdraw; but as it is always a difficult matter to part with

## 74 THE CAPTIVE.

with what one loves, she always found some little pretence to keep her lover a minute longer.

In the conclusion, she made him a present of a gold chain enriched with several precious stones, telling him, very gallantly at the same time, that such slaves as he ought always to wear such chains as those, and no others. The happy Mr. Clifford, more happy at having received this chain than if he had had the Deyship of Tunis, made a very civil and obliging return to this gallantry; and taking leave of her, since he lay under a necessity of so doing, he retired with Charlotte, who accompanied him to the door of the apartment.

Presents

## THE CAPTIVE. 73

Presents among the Turks are generally looked on as the first tokens of affection; they are understood sometimes as declarations of love. Charlotte, who was no novice in these matters, told Mr. Clifford the meaning of the present which the Sultana had just made him, and that he had not the least reason to doubt of her affection, after what she had both said and done; however she advised him to be much upon his guard, as circumspection was a very necessary duty in that country with respect to women, who were oftentimes so violent in their passions that they broke thro' all restraints sooner than miss of their beloved object. She added, that the Sultana indeed was one of the most sensible women she had ever met with, but then on the other hand she was very tender and affectionate; that

## 74 THE CAPTIVE.

if the Dey, who was a man well experienced in matters of intrigue, should have the least suspicion of their correspondence, it would infallibly prove the ruin of them both; that there was no one in the whole kingdom that had a nicer sense of honour than he had, or would sooner revenge any affront that should be offered it; and lastly, that the great intimacy which now subsisted between them would be of no service to either if he once discovered that they had seen each other.

However prejudiced the young gentleman might be in favour of the agreeable beginning of his passion, and whatever pleasure he might feel at the receiving such repeated assurances of tenderness from one of the finest women upon earth, yet he could not help reflecting seriously upon the advice that

Charlotte

## THE CAPTIVE. 75

Charlotte had just been giving him. He went along the seraglio, musing what he ought to do, and what methods he could make use of to oppose a passion which might in time become so dangerous to him, and which, at best, could only involve him in misfortunes and confusion.

When the Dey, who was going soon after to one of his mistresses, met him, seeing that he passed by him without taking any manner of notice of him, he burst out into a fit of laughter, and, taking hold of him by the arm, "Now," said he, "I see that you are in love."

Mr. Clifford, quite ashamed of being found in that situation, begged pardon for the neglect he had been guilty of. The Dey told him that, if he was

## 76 THE CAPTIVE.

willing to be forgiven, he must confess the truth, namely, that he was very deeply meditating on Charlotte's merit and beauty.

“Alas! Sir,” said he sighing, “I was thinking of more than I can express to you, nay of more than you yourself can imagine.”

It being now pretty late, and the Dey not at leisure, he put off the conversation to another time, and accordingly took his leave of Mr. Clifford.

This was a great happiness as well as pleasure for the young gentleman, who was not in a situation to talk with him upon such a subject as he proposed. He spent great part of the night in walking about his room, as if he had resolved

## THE CAPTIVE. 77

resolved not to go to bed, before he came to some settled resolution. Not that he was in so much anxiety about the loss either of his life or fortune, as on account of the ill return that he was going to make for all the Dey's favours: this he thought was wholly inexcusable, and proved therefore matter of great uneasiness to him. But then, would he frequently say to himself, should not I be the basest man alive to slight the affection of so charming a creature, to whom, if I consider strictly the value of obligations, I am a thousand times more indebted than to the Dey? And could not I continue seeing her, and yet so restrain myself within bounds as to be guilty of ingratitude to neither? No, no, added he, if this is ingratitude, I cannot by any means abstain from it. Nothing can possibly be said in my justifi-

## 28 THE CAPTIVE.

fication to the Sultana, whereas love, is an all-sufficient excuse, or at least ought to be so, to the Dey.

This was the last struggle in Mr. Clifford's mind, between the interfering sentiments of love and gratitude: the former got the better, as is very frequently the case.

Having thus settled this matter in his mind, he went to bed, and gave himself no farther uneasiness about it.

The Dey, who desired nothing so much as to see him so far gone in love, that he should not be able to extricate himself, was the first who desired him to return to the seraglio the next day. He gave him the key of it, and told him, at the same time, smiling, that he need  
not

## THE CAPTIVE. 79

not be in such a hurry to come back again if he found as much delight in going there as he wished him to have; and, likewise, to take care not to be so enamoured himself as to neglect the means of inspiring the young lady with a passion for him; for, if that was the case, he would spend his time to as little purpose as he had done before him. Mr. Clifford upon this went into the seraglio.

Charlotte, who was waiting for him, told him he might go into the same room that he had been in the day before, and that she would go and let her mistress know of his being come; but the Sultana's impatience was so great that she was already in the alcove waiting for his arrival. The lover, who had a great curiosity to examine how this

## 80 THE CAPTIVE.

place was made, thought this a very proper opportunity, when he believed she was not there, to satisfy it; and accordingly he went up to the balustrade and, lifted up the curtain very softly; but what was his surprize when, all on a sudden, he beheld the beautiful Sultana in a posture that was the most capable of inspiring love!

I shall omit a particular description of the alcove, as its being designed for the lady of so rich and powerful a man the reader will easily imagine its magnificence. I shall only observe that it was raised a foot higher than the rest of the room by a step covered with a fine Turkey carpet embroidered with gold. The Sultana was laying upon a couch of the finest tapestry, and, as she had intended to favour Mr. Clifford that day

## THE CAPTIVE. 81

day with a sight of her person, you may be sure that nothing was wanting to set it out to the best advantage, in order to enchant him.

Her face was turned towards the balustrade, and leaned negligently on her left arm which was exposed to view, being in one of those open sleeves which Turkish women usually wear. Her hair was partly braided, partly flowing loose about her neck and shoulders, and being of a fine jet, produced a beautiful contrast between that and the fairness of her complexion. She had only a little girdle with a diamond buckle about her waste. Her bosom was half covered with a fine gauze handkerchief, which served for a kind of scarf after the manner of the Amazons. She had plumes of different co-

## 82 THE CAPTIVE

lours upon her head, in the midst of which was a fine crescent of silver. Her petticoat was a very light stuff richly embroidered, according to the custom of the country. It had two diamond clasps which fastened it up to the knee; on her legs she wore a pair of buskins richly ornamented with pearls and diamonds: in short, her figure and dress were both so enchanting, that they compleated the conquest already begun in Mr. Clifford. He shewed his rapture and astonishment by such a confusion both in his words and actions, that he neither knew what he was doing or where he was. He was in a perfect extacy; but although his tongue was silent, yet his looks and sighs spoke a language that was perfectly well understood.

The

## THE CAPTIVE. 83

The Sultana, having blushed a little as soon as she saw him, would fain have concealed part of her confusion by putting her handkerchief to her face; but the happy lover, beginning to grow bolder, put his hand through the the rail, and prevented her; saying at at the same time, “ You had very good  
“ reason indeed, madam, for hitherto  
“ concealing yourself, lest the sight of so  
“ much beauty should at once overcome  
“ me; but now you have already in-  
“ dulged me so far, there is no need of  
“ withdrawing your favour. I have  
“ seen more than it is possible to be-  
“ hold unmoved and unconquered; it  
“ would therefore be an act of great  
“ cruelty in you not to compleat the  
“ conquest that you have begun.”

## 34 THE CAPTIVE.

While Mr. Clifford was saying this, she looked at him in so tender and affectionate a manner, that she seemed to have already granted what he was so earnestly desiring. He had got hold of one of her hands, upon which he was imprinting numberless kisses, and by degrees drew her imperceptibly quite towards him; so that in a little time she found her head leaning against the rails directly opposite to her lover: unfortunately the rails were so close together, that it was with difficulty that a person could get any part of his head between; nevertheless, each contributing all in their power towards it, they found means to give and receive a thousand tender kisses, the pleasures of which can only be known to such as have experienced them.

Mr.

## THE CAPTIVE. 85

Mr. Clifford, who was naturally bold, proceeded from one liberty to another; and, finding that his behaviour was so far from being disgusting that it pleased the Sultana very much, he played a thousand little amorous pranks. Till then their entertainment had consisted in dumb shew, which is much more expressive than the most eloquent conversation. Their looks, sighs and kisses had spoke in a pretty intelligible manner, sufficient to persuade both that their love was reciprocal; nor did they want to change this kind of discourse for any other, till Charlotte's coming in obliged them to drop it. However, they were not wholly upon the reserve before her; uttering every now and then very passionate and tender expressions. The Sultana, who knew her very well, and  
never

## 86 THE CAPTIVE.

never concealed any thing from her, did not seem to be under any uneasiness about her presence; but Mr. Clifford, who was much better pleased with the former than the latter kind of discourse, made a sign to her to withdraw a little. The Sultana pretended to be angry at this, and thereupon let down the curtain, and fastened it in such a manner that the lover could not lift it up any more: but as this was only a feint it soon went off, and they were quickly reconciled as well as ever. The remainder of this visit being chiefly spent in a repetition of such toyings as have been already mentioned, I shall not detain the reader any longer with a description of the several particulars.

Charlotte, who had never retired to any great distance, returned upon a  
signa

## THE CAPTIVE. 87

signal that was made for her approach, and reconducted Mr. Clifford to the door, who was so deeply in love that he scarce knew where he was, or what he was doing. He went from thence to the Dey, who did not fail observing that he was extremely altered.

“ Well, Mr. Clifford,” said he,  
“ how do you like being in love? Is it  
“ pain or pleasure that has so delighted  
“ you to day ?”

“ I own my Lord,” said he, “ it is  
“ pleasure, but it is a kind of pleasure,  
“ which I fear will be attended with  
“ a good deal of uneasiness.”

The Dey then took him by the hand  
and proposed a turn in the garden. He  
immediately

## 38 THE CAPTIVE.

immediately began to congratulate him upon his good fortune, and desired withal to be informed in what situation he then was,

Mr. Clifford, whose heart was as yet full of love, found no great difficulty in describing the sentiments that he felt. He gave him so lively an account of the pleasure he had enjoyed that evening, intermingling it with several sighs and exclamations, that he had well nigh revived much of that tenderness in the Dey which he had formerly felt upon Charlotte's account; for this is a certain truth, that notwithstanding all the care which may be taken to eradicate and extinguish the passion of love, yet there always remains enough in the heart of a lover, to be rekindled again upon the least application of its fire.

The

## THE CAPTIVE 89

The insensibility and resistance of Charlotte had not had sufficient power over the Dey to make him forget his former inclination; it had only produced a kind of gentle warmth which served rather to keep up than to extinguish the flame. Had Mr. Clifford been experienced in love affairs, he would have considered that it was always dangerous to give such descriptions before people that are naturally amorous, and more especially to one whom he was to look upon as a kind of rival, and who had him so entirely at his command. But the truth was, that as he found he ran no hazard on his own side in giving this description of Charlotte, whom he had no sort of regard for; and that on the contrary, the making the Dey believe he was in love with her, tended much, he thought, to the forwarding

90 THE CAPTIVE.

warding of his own business, he did not restrain himself as he ought; and as indeed he would have done, had he thought that there had been the least occasion for his so doing.

The Dey was much discomposed with the account he had received. Charlotte was ten thousand times more beautiful in the light Mr. Clifford had represented her than she had ever appeared before. He considered himself as the most unfortunate man alive in not only having quitted the pursuit himself, but likewise in having contributed to the surrendering her up to another. Upon this he grew jealous and after that exceedingly angry. He considered that nothing could be more mortifying to a man of his rank and fortune than to meet with resistance from

## THE CAPTIVE. 91

from one who was absolutely dependent upon him, from one too who had surrendered to a slave at first sight; for indeed, by the description that Mr. Clifford had given him, he did not doubt but that every thing had been agreed on between them. He imagined to himself that an hundred things had happened, each of which were productive of a great deal of uneasiness; and if he did not actually hate Mr. Clifford, yet at least it may be said that he did not feel for him all those emotions of tenderness which he formerly had. And as to Charlotte, altho' he was more enamoured of her than ever, he could not help being a little piqued at the preference which she had so manifestly shewn, and reproaching her in his own mind for her great want of discernment, in having esteemed a friendship, which  
could

92 THE CAPTIVE.

could not possibly be of any service to her, above his which would have made her compleatly happy, at least, if abundance could make her so. To these thoughts succeeded others which more immediately respected his personal qualifications, and his own behaviour in the affair. He accused himself of great meanness in having given himself so much uneasiness about one who so little deserved his affection; and in attempting to disturb the quiet of two lovers, whose passion he himself had been the sole author and cause of. And yet all this did not hinder him from accompanying Mr. Clifford to the seraglio the next morning, but it was only to see how Charlotte behaved. She was surprized indeed at seeing him.

"This is very unusual, my Lord,"  
said

THE CAPTIVE. 93

said she, " to see you here twice in  
" one week: I wonder what people  
" will think of it."

" I have brought" replied the Dey,  
" too agreeable a person with me, for  
" you to make any objections; and if  
" you should think that I come here  
" out of love to you, as I have before  
" done, you may be very sure that it is  
" not out of love to myself; so that  
" you ought to be the more obliged to  
" me."

Charlotte thanked him very civilly  
for the favour, upon which they all  
three entered into a conversation upon  
various topics, but chiefly on the sub-  
ject of love, in which the Dey said  
enough to Charlotte to let her see how  
uneasy he was upon her account, if she  
doubted of the reality of his passion for  
her;

94 THE CAPTIVE.

her; but the air with which he spoke, it all passed off for the effects only of good humour. However, as the Dey could come thither only under pretence of seeing the Sultana, he could not dispense himself from paying her a visit, which however he made as short as possible, his uneasiness calling him back again to the two lovers whom he had left; he therefore joined their company again presently. He then said a number of more obliging things to Charlotte than he had before, and when he went out, gave her such a look, that, had she had the least suspicion of a returning passion, she must have observed that his affection for her was growing upon him again with more violence than ever. But she was so persuaded of his liking the young stranger, that she did not believe him capable of so extraordinary a change,

## THE CAPTIVE. 95

change, never once imagining that he could ever design to disturb and put an end to a correspondence which he himself had been the promoter of. She therefore looked on every thing that the Dey had said to her as the effect of his natural gallantry, and told it the Sultana; to whom she gave an exact account of every thing that had passed during the conversation.

The beautiful Sultana went to bed very much discontented with what had happened, and disappointed at not having been so agreeably entertained as she had been the evening before. She could not comfort herself on the reflection that she had been visited by a man who seemed to be born for the happiness of every one else except herself. Charlotte told her that she had not the  
least

96 THE CAPTIVE.

least reason to complain since it was to his complaisance that her lover was entirely owing.

“Alas!” said she, “who can possibly tell the reason why he has been so complaisant? you may at least be assured that it was not out of any intention to oblige me.”

“No, indeed, madam,” said Charlotte, “and yet you are not at all less obliged to him. You ought, I think to thank him for it on my account.”

After this little raillery they discoursed on the reasons that probably induced him to make so unexpected a visit; and after much conjecture on both sides they resolved it all into that excess of

## THE CAPTIVE. 97

of complaisance which he had for Mr. Clifford.

The Dey became fretful, and solitary. He was perpetually walking in the garden, either alone or sometimes with Mr. Clifford, to whom he did not discourse any more concerning Charlotte or about his returning to the seraglio, which proved matter of great uneasiness to the lover; who, besides that he was deprived of the pleasure of seeing the person whom he loved more than life, and whom he could not be absent from without feeling the deepest concern, was likewise tormented with a thousand anxious thoughts, as imagining that the Dey had taken up some suspicions of his intercourse with the Sultana; and this might very well account for his silence: but if this gave

98 THE CAPTIVE.

Mr. Clifford some uneasiness, the Sultana and her confidant were by no means less afflicted. They saw four long days elapse without seeing him: in love, even moments are reckoned up with the greatest accuracy, and days of absence appear whole ages.

“What can be the reason of all this?” would they say one to another. They had a thousand fears, the subject of which they were wholly unacquainted with. It is very difficult in places of that kind to do any thing without its being known; and yet they verily thought that they had not given any one the least opportunity of saying any thing to their disadvantage, nor could any one in the apartments perceive their having been together. At last, on the fifth day, after they had disquieted

## THE CAPTIVE. 99

disquieted themselves a good deal, the Dey came to see them; but unfortunately he came alone. He appeared so full of thought, and so altered in his disposition from what he used to be, that they did not in the least doubt of his having had private intelligence of the Sultana's interview with the Christian slave; and what contributed to confirm them the more in this suspicion was, that Charlotte, having conducted him out of the apartment as she used to do, asked him what he had done with her dear eunuch.

"I am jealous," said he, without stopping, "and that is sufficient."

This was a finishing stroke indeed! Charlotte went immediately and alarmed her mistress, telling her that

100 THE CAPTIVE.

they now could no longer doubt but that the Dey was acquainted with the whole affair, and that he had just declared that jealousy was the reason why he did not intend to bring Mr. Clifford along with him any more. Guilty minds are apt to fear even where there is little or no real danger: however, fear has this consequence attending it, that the slightest suspicions are oftentimes considered as certain and most assured truths. How many sighs and tears did it cost that lovely woman! Not that the consequences she had to fear from the Dey's displeasure against her were so terrible, as the apprehension that she should see her lover no more, if it was really true that he was the object of her husband's jealousy. She would have been very glad to have had it in her power to write to him, but

faithful

## THE CAPTIVE. 13

faithful emissaries are not always to be found, especially in a place where we have reason to be distrustful of every body: where every one is a kind of spy set to watch over our actions, unless they are gained over either by money or civilities; and even after all this care and precaution, people are very frequently deceived.

While she was in this agitation, Charlotte received a note from Mr. Clifford, brought by an eunuch, which she immediately went and shewed to her mistress. The contents were as follows.

“Madam,

“THE Dey, who is continu-  
 “ally conferring fresh obli-  
 “gations upon me, has permitted  
 “me to have the honour of walking  
 “with you this evening in the garden  
 “belonging to the seraglio. As I  
 “know not the hour you can most con-  
 “veniently be spared from an attend-  
 “ance on the Sultana, be pleased, if  
 “you intend me the honour, to in-  
 “form me of the time: the Dey will  
 “be there with one of his mistresses.  
 “Be pleased to let me know whether  
 “I may expect the favour of your  
 “company.”

This walk was only proposed by the  
 Dey, in order to give him an oppor-  
 tunity

## THE CAPTIVE. 103

tunity of seeing how Charlotte and Mr. Clifford behaved towards each other: the garden and time, for it was night, were both extremely proper for this purpose. He made the proposal to Mr. Clifford, thinking that he would receive it very joyfully, and indeed he did, although he was persuaded in his own mind that it would not come to any thing, because he imagined it likely that the Sultana would not permit Charlotte to leave her. There was one circumstance that made Mr. Clifford uneasy: he thought the Dey was jealous of his wife, since he would not give him leave to visit Charlotte any more in the seraglio.

He was now to write to Charlotte to know whether she approved of the proposal. Mr. Clifford wrote the note

104 THE CAPTIVE.

and the Dey sent it by an eunuch, designing to wait till he came back to know what answer Charlotte would give.

The Sultana read the note and imagined, as well as her lover, that it was upon her account the Dey would not permit Mr. Clifford to visit Charlotte any more in the seraglio.

It was sometime before she determined what was to be done. Charlotte was very averse to going; but the Sultana, who was too far gone in love to act consistently with reason, insisted upon it, notwithstanding all the other could urge to the contrary, that she should send the following answer.

“ You

THE CAPTIVE. 105

“**Y**OU would feel very awkwardly to be left alone in the garden whilst others are diverting themselves; and, therefore, out of pity to you, I consent to meet you; on condition, however, that you behave with discretion, and that we retire at some distance from the Dey, that I may not be known by her whom he intends to bring with him. If you will consent to these two conditions, I am at your service in the evening as soon as I have put the Sultana to bed.”

“Adieu.”

This exceeded Mr. Clifford's expectations, and gave him great pleasure, inasmuch as he should have an opportunity of discoursing with Char-

106 THE CAPTIVE.

lotte about the Sultana, during the whole time, they were to be in the garden.

The hour appointed being come, the Dey told Mr. Clifford, that he might go and fetch Charlotte and conduct her into the garden, while he went to look out for the mistress whose turn it was to come to him; for that is the method observed with respect to the women that are kept in the seraglio. When the Dey has no desire for any particular woman, he takes them by turns; so that having not a true relish of love, he seeks it in the change and variety of the objects.

You will easily imagine that Mr. Clifford received his command with a great deal of satisfaction. With eagerness  
and

## THE CAPTIVE. 107

and rapture he flew once more to behold the charming Sultana; who, quite transported at seeing him, could not express the joy that she felt, otherwise than by as many tender endearments as it was possible for one lover to bestow upon another.

It may, perhaps, be wondered at, that in so short a time two persons should be so intimate; but it must be remembered, that in those warm climates the progress of love is much quicker than in cold ones.

Mr. Clifford, who had not much time to lose, was willing to make use of the little he had, in reproaching and chiding the Sultana, for having given Charlotte leave to come and walk with him.

108 THE CAPTIVE.

“ You must either, madam,” said he—  
 “ have had a very good opinion of my  
 “ heart, or your affection must have  
 “ been very moderate, to have shewn  
 “ no uneasiness at all about it.”

The Sultana replied, that she did not  
 so much depend upon his constancy as  
 upon Charlotte’s discretion, whom she  
 knew too well to think her capable of  
 being so treacherous.

“ Take care of yourself, and that  
 “ will be all sufficient,” continued she,  
 “ for, as to her conduct, I have not the  
 “ least mistrust. If you are willing to  
 “ do your duty, I am sure that she will  
 “ not be deficient in the performance  
 “ of hers.”

After

## THE CAPTIVE. 109

After she had said this she would not detain him any longer for fear of the Dey, and upon this she retired into her own apartment.

This favoured lover, now fully contented with the happy moments he had passed, came out and asked Charlotte whether she was ready. She told him that she only wanted her cloak †, and then she would wait upon him. Mr. Clifford, seeing her come forth in this dress, went before her, according to the custom of the country, and she followed him; but when they were got into the garden, where liberties were usually allowed, he broke the silence which had been observed all the time.

† The Cloaks that the Moorish women wear cover them from head to foot.

they

## 110 THE CAPTIVE.

they were walking thro' the seraglio for fear any one should overhear them.

"Who would not conjecture, madam," said he, "that we had amorous designs, for here is a set, formal meeting? The Dey will think us the happiest lovers in the world."

The lady did not answer him a syllable, but kept still walking on till they arrived at the arbour which was allotted them, and which was far enough removed from that where the Dey was, as Charlotte had desired it might be. Mr. Clifford gave her his hand, and, as he was well acquainted with the place, found no great difficulty in conducting her to a seat.

"Indeed,"

## THE CAPTIVE. 111

“ Indeed, madam,” said he, “ this is  
“ a severe trial of a man’s constancy,  
“ to leave him alone with so fine a  
“ young lady as yourself, the greater  
“ part of the night, and that too in such  
“ a place as this. After so convincing  
“ a proof as this, I think the Sultana  
“ cannot entertain the least distrust of  
“ me.”

Mr. Clifford said no more, waiting  
for her answer; but seeing that she ob-  
served a strict silence, “ I was thinking  
“ we were forbid all the pleasure of an  
“ interview except that of conversation,  
“ but I see that you are determined to  
“ adhere closely to the Turkish fashion;  
“ and because a woman, shewing her-  
“ self, or speaking to a man, is account-  
“ ed a great favour in this country, you  
“ are determined to deprive me both of  
“ the

## 112 THE CAPTIVE.

“ the one and the other : but pray,  
“ when we are together, let us follow  
“ the custom of the Europeans, which  
“ is much more reasonable than that of  
“ the Turks : were you not to do this  
“ you would act too severely, and I be-  
“ lieve it would be carrying your  
“ cruelty farther than either the Sul-  
“ tana expects of you, or than you have  
“ promised her. Pull off, I beseech  
“ you, that useless cloak, for you have  
“ no need at all of it here, and be so  
“ good as to tell me somewhat con-  
“ cerning the Sultana; or if you like it  
“ better, the adventures that first  
“ brought you hither, and which I  
“ have continually had a great desire  
“ to hear an account of ever since the  
“ first day I had the honour of seeing  
“ you. You will not, I hope, refuse  
“ me this favour, as there is a possi-  
bility.

THE CAPTIVE. 113

“ bility of my being useful to you in  
“ some measure or other ; and indeed  
“ I make no manner of doubt but I  
“ can be so, since I have interest enough  
“ with the Dey to make him become  
“ your friend.”

The lady heard all this very attentively without replying a single syllable, and without pulling off her cloak, notwithstanding all Mr. Clifford's intreaties to the contrary. He, seeing her unwillingness to comply with his request, did not press her any farther; but putting on a more grave aspect; “ If, madam,” said he, “ it is your  
“ design that we should spend the evening in this manner, it will be a very  
“ melancholy one for me ; but, however, I must bear it as well as I can.”  
Upon this he went and sat himself down.

114 THE CAPTIVE.

down at the farther end of the harbour, where he staid some time without saying a word.

The lady sighed very deeply, as if heartily sorry that he had left her; but Mr. Clifford, counterfeiting the part of an angry lover, made no kind of reply. At last she came up to him, took him by the arm, and put in practice all those arts which are commonly made use of to bring people to temper.

Mr. Clifford, laughing, said, "Be contented, madam, with the sacrifice I am making to love, without wearying out my patience. Let us have a little conversation; for I do not like by any means to be the only person that speaks."

The

## THE CAPTIVE. 115

The lady made no answer, but laughed aside, and seemed to take great delight in teasing him a little; at which Mr. Clifford grew at last very impatient.

“It is too much,” said he, “and  
“since you are determined to laugh, I  
“am likewise resolved to make you  
“speak in spite of yourself.”

Upon this he caught her in his arms, and took certain liberties which would have made a girl of Charlotte's discretion easily break silence; but notwithstanding all this she still held out, and made little or no resistance, at which Mr. Clifford was exceedingly surprized; and, after the esteem that he had for her, he either thought that there was some mischievous intention that lay concealed, or that he was mistaken in the  
the

## 116 THE CAPTIVE.

the person, and it was then that he tried more than ever to see her face by the glimmering of a lamp at some distance from them.

“If the Sultana,” said he, “knew  
“what you have done, she would not  
“be pleased either with your silence  
“or with the difficulty you make at letting me see you. One would imagine,  
“that you only made this resistance in  
“order to encourage me to proceed;  
“and that you refuse me trifles that  
“you may with a better grace grant  
“me requests of more consequence.”

The lady could hold out no longer; but letting go her cloak, left it in his hands, and got from him; crying at the same time, “Ah! thou traitor, is  
“this

THE CAPTIVE. 117

“this the constancy which you promised to observe?”

“Heavens! madam,” said he, “is it you?”

It was indeed the Sultana herself who had taken Charlotte's place, and you may easily conjecture that the lover was very agreeably surprized. At first he was so astonished that he could only utter that exclamation; and running after her, who did not make any great haste to get from him, he came up with her just as she got to the brink of a fountain, at a little distance from the harbour where they had been sitting.

“My dear Sultana,” said he, “is it you?”

“Yes

## 118 THE CAPTIVE.

“ Yes it is,” replied she, permitting herself at the same time to be led gently towards the arbour, which they had just left; “ but I already begin to repent of what I have done, since I have now unhappily discovered that you are not deserving of my tenderness. Could you think me so indifferent as to intrust to another what I esteem most dear upon earth? And do not I see that I should have had reason to repent of my confidence? Your constancy was very nigh overcome; and if Charlotte had but made the wished-for advances, pray what would have become of it?”

Mr. Clifford was in the utmost confusion at these reproaches. He was neither wholly guilty, nor yet wholly innocent. He [confessed himself to  
blame;

## THE CAPTIVE. 119

blame; but then he excused himself on account of the behaviour which she had put on before him; alledging that it was absolutely impossible for any one to withstand the continual attacks she had made upon him: in short, he pleaded so well, or rather love pleaded so strongly in his behalf, that they were soon reconciled. It must be owned that the Sultana exposed herself a good deal, in going into a garden with a lover where she knew her husband was at the same time. Many ladies, in these days, might impeach her discretion and disapprove of her conduct; but were they to place themselves in the same situation and circumstances, I believe there would be few but would act in the same manner. The Dey, although in company with a very fine woman, did not however spend his time near so agreeably

120 THE CAPTIVE.

bly as Mr. Clifford had done. Melinda, for that was the name of the mistress whom he then had with him, besides being extremely beautiful, had a good understanding, an engaging address, and lively wit; insomuch, that she was reputed the most agreeable woman, next to the Sultana, in the whole seraglio. The Dey formerly loved her extremely, but as that love was founded only in sensuality, it soon degenerated into indifference and dislike, and was now entirely at an end.

It was in vain that she practised that evening the several arts that used once to please; her patron took little or no notice of them: and indeed he had only brought her into the garden as a pretence to conceal the true cause of his coming. She mistrusted that somewhat  
more

## THE CAPTIVE. 121

more than ordinary was the matter as soon as she heard that Charlotte was in the garden, for with this secret the Dey himself had entrusted her, thinking that her apprehensions would be sufficiently quieted by telling her that Charlotte was greatly enamoured with Mr. Clifford, who was then with her. But of all this she did not believe a single syllable, but rather imagined that this slave was the Dey's confidant, and that he had brought Charlotte thither only for his own use. She had formerly indeed been exceedingly jealous of her, and surely no reason can be given why the Dey, knowing this, should make choice of her to attend him upon this occasion. She was quite in despair at seeing herself so slighted and neglected, for the Dey had scarcely said four words to her the whole evening, and she plainly per-

## 122 THE CAPTIVE.

ceived that he was thinking of Charlotte all the time he was with her. This was a distressful situation for one who was in love, conscious at the same time of her own beauty, and withal of a haughty spirit. But what completed her distress was, that the Dey, who was incessantly tormented with jealousy, after having spent some time with her in a perfect indifference, although she gave him several opportunities of behaving in a very different manner, told her that he had a great mind to go and hear what the two Christians were talking about. Melinda did not say a word in answer to this proposal, but let him go; taking care, in a little while after, to walk towards the same harbour through a different walk, in order to watch his motions.

The

## THE CAPTIVE. 123

The nights are very clear and light in that country, but more especially so in summer. The Dey, notwithstanding all the precautions he had taken to approach the harbour with as little noise as possible, skulking along by the side of the hedges, was perceived by the Sultana. His shadow discovered him, and the giving immediate notice of it to her lover, he ran out to meet the Dey, and desired him not to advance any farther, and to be at least so complaisant to him as to permit him to pass those agreeable minutes which he had so bountifully granted him.

The Sultana, who could not possibly conceive why the Dey came on that side of the garden, being greatly alarmed for fear the Dey should come into the harbour, notwithstanding all

that her lover said to the contrary, followed him immediately, with an intent to conceal herself in some remote corner of the garden, where she could think herself at least more secure.

The Dey, being in some confusion on his having been discovered, was easily prevailed on to grant Mr. Clifford's request, more especially as his design of overhearing their conversation was now entirely frustrated; so that he went back to his arbour, and Mr. Clifford to his, who was much surprized when he found that the Sultana was not there. He concluded that it was thro' apprehension of being discovered that she had left the place.

He was in a good deal of concern, and was going to look about for her, when,

## THE CAPTIVE. 125

when, just as he was going out, he saw, in the further part of the harbour, something that bore the shape of a woman. He went up to it, and, finding that he was not mistaken, he imagined it was a piece of merriment that the Sultana intended to play him. Pleased with the frolicksome humour he thought her in, he took her in his arms in the most tender manner, and said, "You are  
" very arch, but withal very cruel,  
" madam, thus to contrive a scheme to  
" put me upon rambling all over the  
" garden to look for you." The lady did not answer a syllable, but struggling to get from him, retired into a further corner of the harbour.

Mr. Clifford, as it may be imagined, was exceedingly surprized: but how could he undeceive himself, or believe

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that, in such a short space of time, so great a change had taken place, as had really been the case? He went up to her a second time, and taking her by the hand, "Why do you avoid me, "madam," said he; "and why do you "endeavour to conceal yourself? The "Dey is retired to his own harbour, and "has promised not to give us any more "disturbance."

He was not able to get any answer notwithstanding all this, upon which he kneeled down quite close to her, and kissing the hand that he had got hold of, desired her to tell him what was the matter with her, and why she seemed to be so displeased with him. He then embraced her, and bestowed a thousand tender endearments upon her, which she took very patiently; but at length hearing

hearing her laugh in a very different manner from the Sultana, he examined her more narrowly, and soon perceived that her shape was different, and her cloaths unlike those of the Sultana. His confusion now was inexpressible; he thought he was come into the land of metamorphoses, and that he was destined that day to behold some of the most extraordinary phenomena in nature. Charlotte being changed into the Sultana was not so very surprizing, or at least the surprize had proved very agreeable; but that the Sultana should be changed into another woman, perhaps into the Dey's mistress, was absolutely beyond his conception. But what gave him the greatest uneasiness was, what was become all this time of the Sultana, and the fear that the Dey should meet with her in the garden and

know her to be his wife. He would fain have gone to her assistance, but Melinda (for that was in truth the person whom Mr. Clifford had mistaken for the Sultana) took hold of him by the robe and told him in the Moriscoe tongue, that men did not usually leave ladies in that manner whom they had careffed.

Mr. Clifford, who did not understand that language, desired her to let him go, for fear the Dey should be enraged if he should find them together. But all his entreaties were vain, she was so far from being willing to let him go, that she insisted on his sitting by her, in order to avenge her of the slight that the Dey had put upon her.

During

## THE CAPTIVE. 129

During this consternation, which must undoubtedly have had somewhat extraordinary in it, more especially as neither understood what the other said, the Sultana came into the harbour quite out of breath, and threw herself into Mr. Clifford's arms, who was luckily on that side ready to receive her.

The lover was in no small fright at this incident, and conjectured, as well he might, that he was quite undone, and that she had been discovered. However the Dey, who came presently after, relieved him from his apprehensions upon that subject.

“ You fly me madam,” said he to the counterfeit Charlotte, “ with a  
“ strange swiftness; you fly from a  
“ man who designs you no evil, nor  
G 5 “ who

“who ever designed you any.” And then turning himself towards Mr. Clifford, he was going in all probability to make some polite apology to him for not having kept his word, but seeing Melinda just by him, he altered both his resolution, and his language, and asked that lady in Moriscoe, what she had to do in that arbour? She immediately got up, and, after having returned a very haughty answer to his question, reproached him bitterly for a weakness in abandoning her for a worthless slave that avoided him.

This was an uncommon scene, and very entertaining no doubt to the Sultana; however, she had no reason to be pleased in the sequel, for Melinda, incensed to the last degree at the contempt which the Dey had shewn for her,  
and

## THE CAPTIVE. 131

and at what he had said before her pretended rival, flew upon her with inexpressible fury, insomuch that both the Dey and Mr. Clifford, who both endeavoured to restrain her, could not hinder the pretended Charlotte from being somewhat ill used.

The lover felt this outrage to the quick, and no argument would have been sufficient to have kept him within bounds had not the apprehension of losing the Sultana for ever moderated his resentment.

The Dey was not at all less angry; for, seizing his enraged mistress by the hand, he dragged her pretty roughly out of the harbour, and carried her off with him.

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Mr. Clifford no sooner perceived that he was left alone with the Sultana, than embracing her tenderly, "Heavens, "madam," said he, "what dangers "have you exposed yourself to for my "sake; and what a cruel insult have "you just met with!"

The Sultana only laughed it off and declared, that she really felt more pleasure in seeing Melinda's despair, for whom she had ever a great aversion, than uneasiness from any harm herself had received; but she owned at the same time, that the meeting the Dey, who was seeking his mistress, disquieted her a good deal, and that it was a most fortunate circumstance that she had taken her cloak with her, as otherwise she must have been discovered. Her dear husband, she added, had said many gallant

## THE CAPTIVE. 133

gallant things to her, and was very pressing; but that she, being near the arbour, found means, by struggling, to get loose from him, which had she not done, it must have been attended with some fatal consequence. She added, that there was now not the least doubt, but that he was as violently enamoured of Charlotte as ever; that the several compliments that he made her, and the eagerness with which he pursued her, was but too sad a confirmation of it; that this was the real cause of his jealousy and their alarm, and the true reason why he had not brought him into the seraglio so frequently as before. Mr. Clifford was entirely of the same opinion, and they both agreed that there was need of great art in the management of the affair; but as Charlotte was to act the principal part, it was thought  
necessary

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necessary that she should assist them with her address and complacency.

The Dey, who took but little delight in the garden after the miscarriage of his amorous designs, having endeavoured to quiet a little the enraged Melinda, was willing to have carried her home, and to that end passed before the harbour where Mr. Clifford was, in order to let him know that it was time to depart. Mr. Clifford followed him presently, very happy in having escaped so safely from a series of adventures that were by no means very promising of success. He waited upon his dear Sultana to her apartment, where he did not stay a great while for fear of being interrupted by the Dey. He spent the rest of the night very agreeably (though he scarcely slept a wink the whole time) and I believe

## THE CAPTIVE. 135

lieve the reader will be of opinion that he had reason to be pleased ; but the case was not the same with his patron who was miserably disquieted with numberless uneasy thoughts that disturbed his rest. Charlotte, whom he now loved more violently than ever, reduced him to despair by her cruelty, and he gave up the peace of his future life for lost, unless she was to be prevailed on to take pity on him.

Notwithstanding the great esteem which he had for Mr. Clifford, yet he could not help being his rival, nor envying him the favours which he imagined were conferred upon him by that beautiful woman. The jaundiced eye reflects no colour but its own, neither does the jealous one. His passion was at such a height, that the not being beloved

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loved by her appeared to him to be the most dreadful misfortune that he could possibly be apprehensive of; and, whenever he thought on the opportunity he had lost the night before, when he had, as he thought, Charlotte in his power, he was so provoked with himself that he was several times going to take vengeance on his own body for it. And yet he had no great reason to repent of his moderation; for he had done every thing that he could, except, indeed, the coming to extremities. He was unwilling as yet to reveal his passion to Mr. Clifford, and to acquaint him with the new sentiments that he felt, and which gave him so much uneasiness; and this was either to spare him the concern which such a declaration was likely to give him, or because he was determined to make use of him in the affair,

and

## THE CAPTIVE. 137

and it was in the others power to prejudice him if he made it known.

In the morning, he went to Mr. Clifford's apartment, as he used sometimes to do, in a familiar manner, and without any attendance, and found him in bed.

"One must be as happy in love as you are," said he, "in order to be able to sleep with so much tranquility as you do."

"If there is any one," replied Mr. Clifford, "who has reason to congratulate himself upon his good fortune in those matters it must certainly be so accomplished a man as yourself, who

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“ who need only make a declaration of  
“ his passion to meet with a suitable re-  
“ turn.”

“ Prithee except Charlotte,” said  
the Dey smiling; “ she has convinced  
“ me but too well that it is possible for  
“ me to sigh in vain, and that, although  
“ I am master of her person, yet I am  
“ not of her heart. It was necessary,  
“ Mr. Clifford, that you should come  
“ from Europe into Africa to make  
“ that glorious conquest.”

“ Hence,” replied Mr. Clifford,  
“ appears the great blindness of love,  
“ which attaches itself often to persons  
“ without knowing any reason why it  
“ does so, and which seems to follow the  
“ destiny of the stars presiding over  
“ those particular persons. I believe,”  
added

added he, "that you are quite com-  
 "forted at present about the loss of Cha-  
 "lotte, and that you did not wish that I  
 "should fall in love with her only with  
 "an intention to become my rival:  
 "at least I solemnly declare to you"  
 (finding that the Dey sighed deeply  
 at these words) "that, even supposing  
 "this were the case, you could not do  
 "me a greater favour than to tell me of  
 "it, because my regard for Charlotte,  
 "whatever it may be, shall never be any  
 "impediment to my performing my  
 "duty. I will freely give up all my  
 "pretensions as soon as ever I shall  
 "know that you put in the least claim;  
 "and this will do I that I may never have  
 "least dispute with one to whom I am  
 "so much indebted, and to whom  
 "therefore I am determined to yield in  
 "every thing."

"People

“ People,” answered the Dey,  
 “ when they have gone so far as you  
 “ have, do not find it so easy a matter  
 “ to get rid of their passion as you seem  
 “ to imagine. Believe me, Mr. Clif-  
 “ ford, you must first persuade me that  
 “ you hardly know what love is.”

“ I am in love indeed,” replied Mr.  
 Clifford, “ and that, perhaps, as  
 “ deeply as it is possible for any one to  
 “ be ; but after the number of favours  
 “ that I have received at your hands, I  
 “ shall always prefer your quiet and sa-  
 “ tisfaction to my own ; and therefore, if  
 “ Charlotte appears as amiable to you  
 “ now, as she has formerly, let me beg  
 “ you to believe me when I protest to  
 “ you, once more, that, from this in-  
 “ stant, I give over all thoughts of her.”

The

## THE CAPTIVE. 141

The reader may see that this generous Englishman did not give up a great deal in reality, whatever he might in appearance.

The Dey having asked him whether he was willing to say as much before Charlotte, he answered, that he thought him too polite, as well as too reasonable, to expect that he should make any such declaration in her presence. Upon which the Dey forbore pressing him any further upon that subject, but proposed a second walk in the garden that day, and accordingly desired him to write to Charlotte to give her notice of it. Mr. Clifford, not being able to make any excuse, was obliged to comply. The answer which he received was as follows :

“ The

“**T**HE being exposed to such  
 “ dangers once is all-sufficient.  
 “ The Dey did not use me discreetly  
 “ enough last night to suffer me to trust  
 “ him again ; and, besides, you saw how  
 “ ill I was treated by his mistress. Be  
 “ satisfied with seeing me here, but no  
 “ more walking.”

The Dey, much disappointed and incensed with this answer, went out of the room without saying a word, and spent the rest of the day alone. Nevertheless in the evening he went to the Sultana, where he met Charlotte, who asked him after Mr. Clifford, and why he did not bring him along with him.

“ Should

THE CAPTIVE. 143

“Should you be forry,” said the Dey, “that I should supply his place  
“this evening?”

“It would be doing me too great an  
“honour,” replied she laughing. “But  
“the Sultana is waiting for you, she is  
“much indisposed.”

The Dey gave her his hand, and would fain have led her into a private apartment, but the beautiful slave was well aware of his intention, and therefore desired him to let her go, alledging, in her excuse, that her mistress was very ill, and that he well knew that she wanted her every minute.

“Yes,” said the Dey, “the Sultana I  
“suppose is ill, and cannot spare you a  
“minute,

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“ minute, because it is I that desire to  
“ spend that minute with you. If Mr.  
“ Clifford was here, you would contrive  
“ some way or other to be absent from  
“ her longer.”

He reproached her in this manner in  
so serious a tone of voice that she  
could not forbear laughing very  
heartily.

“ You know very well,” replied she,  
“ that it is otherwise when you are with  
“ the Sultana, and besides,” added  
she smiling, “ one would run some risk  
“ for the sake of a lover.”

Well,” said the Dey, pressing her  
at the same time to follow him, “ it is  
“ love that has brought me hither like-  
“ wife.”

“ And

THE CAPTIVE. 145

“ And I am endeavouring,” replied she, “ to get rid of it, wherefore I industriously avoid every opportunity of being alone with you : for, altho’ you yourself are a very accomplished gentleman, yet you cannot pretend to affirm that you have any regard for our sex : there is no such thing as putting any confidence in you ; witness the insults you offered me last night in the garden.”

The Dey upon this made a thousand protestations that he would restrain himself within the strict bounds of discretion and decency, and desiring at the same time only a quarter of an hour’s conversation with her, insomuch, that Charlotte, who knew his furious disposition, whensoever he was refused any reasonable request, could not help complying.

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During

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During this time he reproached her a good deal for the cruelty with which she had behaved towards him, and concluded with a number of protestations of tenderness. Charlotte excused herself on account of her honour, her religion, and the Sultana her mistress; three points which she would not give up, upon any account whatever.

“ If you loved me,” returned the Dey, “ you would not find so many reasons to excuse yourself. I profess a religion as well as you, whose laws at least are as rigorous as yours, but love is stronger than all laws, and of more force than all religion. As to the Sultana, you ought to be under no concern; that wholly relates to me, and it will entirely depend upon you that she will know nothing of the  
“ affair:

THE CAPTIVE. 147

“ affair : but why do you talk to me of  
“ your honour ? Is it more honourable  
“ for you to love such a one as the Chris-  
“ tian slave than me ? ”

“ You are much deceived, my lord,”  
said Charlotte, “ if you think that, in  
“ the conversations which have hitherto  
“ passed between that Christian and me,  
“ there has been any thing in the least  
“ contradictory to the strictest rules of  
“ my duty. Europeans do not act like  
“ the people of this country : the  
“ being alone without any witnesses, is  
“ by no means prejudicial to the secu-  
“ rity of the lady ; and, in order to sa-  
“ tisfy you on this head, I solemnly  
“ protest to you that he has not re-  
“ ceived any one favour from me but  
“ what I would grant to the man who

H 2

“ is

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“is the most indifferent in the world  
“to me.”

“What! not in the garden?” replied  
the Dey.

“No, not in the garden, nor any where  
“else,” said Charlotte, “has he had any  
“other advantage but that of seeing  
“me, which among us is reckoned as  
“nothing.”

“Ah! I wish,” said the Dey, “that  
“you could thoroughly convince me  
“of the truth of what you have said.”

Charlotte protested there was nothing  
could be truer, and that he might rest  
fully assured of it.

“I should

## THE CAPTIVE: 19

“ I should be much in the wrong,”  
said the Dey, “ to destroy so virtuous a  
“ friendship; but I declare that, could  
“ I help it, I would never trouble you  
“ with my intrusions, but I am not suf-  
“ ficiently master of myself to be able  
“ to promise you that, nor indeed to dis-  
“ pose of my heart in the manner I  
“ should choose. However, since you  
“ are so little in love with Mr. Clifford  
“ that you can easily resolve not to see  
“ him any more, I ought not to restrain  
“ myself, but rather hope that, one day  
“ or other, you may come to have an  
“ equal degree of affection for me.”

END of BOOK I.

H 3

BOOK



## B O O K II.

**T**HE Dey having said this retired, being a little more quieted than when he came into the seraglio, altho' he was as much in love with Charlotte as ever. He did not fully believe what she had told him with respect to her indifference for Mr. Clifford; however he was convinced that she had not all that regard for him, which he thought she had, or else that there had happened some little quarrel between the two lovers which had damped the warmth of her affection a little, for he had observed in her a greater degree of indifference than passion is usually apt to

## THE CAPTIVE. 151

to inspire. Then all on a sudden reflecting with himself, he would say, "Was it not out of mistrust, and an effect of their refined policy? Are they not plotting how they may most effectually deceive me? And since they are well assured of one another's affection, is not that the reason why they affect to be so indifferent? No, no," he would then reply, "this cannot be the case; love is a passion that is impossible to be concealed, it appears, notwithstanding all the endeavours that are made use of to stifle it. Either Mr. Clifford is not loved at all, or it is but indifferently:" and this he found it easier to persuade himself of, as it was what he most passionately desired. Hence his passion took such an increase, that it became more violent, and consequently more uncontroulable. There

is nothing that nourishes love so much as hope, nor indeed is there any thing so proper to flatter it.

Charlotte went and gave her mistress a full account of this conversation, who wished, indeed, that she had not shewn quite so much rigour to the Dey, and desired that she would shew a little more complaisance; as without which she was apprehensive she should never see Mr. Clifford any more. Charlotte, on the contrary, maintained that such complaisance would spoil all, because the Dey would have grounded some hopes of success upon it, and would have become more enamoured, and consequently more jealous of his rival.

“What then am I to do,” said the Sultana, “if I have reason to be apprehensive

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“prehesive on every side; and if mis-  
“fortunes are the only events that I am  
“to wait for?”

Charlotte told her that matters were not yet come to so bad a pass as to occasion her to despair; that the Dey had promised to send Mr. Clifford to her on the morrow, and then it would be time enough to consult what steps they were to take for the future.

Mr. Clifford did not know that the Dey had been in the seraglio; but as he had not sent for him all day, he went into his room early the next morning. He found him in bed very low spirited, and in a melancholy which made him judge of the situation of his heart. He received him, however, very affably, and in a manner that plainly shewed that he

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was not at all displeased with any part of his behaviour: He staid some time without saying a word; at length, looking upon him with an air of great confidence, "Mr. Clifford," said he, "I am the most unfortunate man alive, and more especially so in the affairs of love. Charlotte," added he sighing at the same time very deeply, "the cruel Charlotte, has not the least sentiment either of pity or tenderness for me: no, not the least pity, notwithstanding what I am continually suffering upon her account. And if you do not assist me with your friendship, I really know not what will become of me."

"Ah! my lord," said Mr. Clifford, "only tell me what would you have me do, and how it is in my power to assist

## THE CAPTIVE. 155

“assist you, and you shall see that my  
“most earnest endeavours shall not be  
“wanting. You know very well that  
“we cannot dispose of people’s hearts just  
“as we have a mind; but if you would  
“have me contribute to your satisfaction,  
“if you desire that I should speak to her  
“on your account, if——”

“How happy should I be,” cried  
the Dey, interrupting him, “if you  
“would do for me all that lays in your  
“power!”

“If your happiness,” replied Mr.  
Clifford, “depends only upon me, you  
“may rest assured that you shall be  
“happy very soon.”

The Dey was then silent for a few  
minutes, as if he was thinking what he

## 156 THE CAPTIVE.

should say to him; but Mr. Clifford, pressing him to open his mind to him freely, he desired him, with a little confusion, to appoint a meeting with Charlotte in one of the rooms belonging to the Sultana's apartment, where he would disguise himself and go in his stead. This proposal, so unworthy the heart of Mr. Clifford, put him a little to a nonplus at first, insomuch that, blushing a good deal, he did not know what reply to make him. The Dey observed the confusion he was in, and became greatly confounded himself; but, for fear he should refuse his request, which he did not think at all unlikely, his blushing being an ill omen, he told him, in order to get rid of him for the present, that he should be glad he would think of it; and that he should give him his answer another time, if he  
might

## THE CAPTIVE. 157

might hope to receive one that was favourable to his intentions.

Mr. Clifford went out of the room bewailing his hard fortune which had reduced him to such an extremity. Not but he was fully convinced that Charlotte would not come, and knew that, even supposing she did, it would not do him the least prejudice, but only tend to the indulgence of his amorous patron. But what afflicted him, besides the baseness of the employment, was, that the Dey should have such an ill opinion of him, as to think him capable of betraying a girl whom he imagined that he was deeply in love with: this consideration alone gave him a great deal of uneasiness, and he was determined not to comply with the proposal at any rate.

The

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The Dey, upon seeing him go out of his room in the manner that he did, thought that he had not any thing to hope for, nor was he at all angry ; on the contrary, he esteemed him the more for it, but he endeavoured to seek for satisfaction from some other quarter. His passion was so violent, that reason, not being able to controul it, it was capable of making him undertake every thing..

The man who, otherwise, has a nice sense of honour, when once become a despairing lover, is the most furious and dangerous adversary ; and this because he is full as sensible of the flight that is put upon him, as he is of his own deserts.

This

## THE CAPTIVE. 159

This lover then, not having succeeded in his proposal to Mr. Clifford, resolved to deceive Charlotte himself, and to pay her a visit that very day disguised like an eunuch. This design, however, was not at all well concerted, as the sequel will abundantly prove.

He had not the patience to wait till the time in which he used generally to go to the Sultana; for, as soon as ever it was dark, in he went, and, finding only an old Moriscoe slave at the door, he sent her to Charlotte to tell her that an eunuch of her acquaintance desired to speak with her in the closet; for so was the apartment called, on account of its being so private and retired, and he had pitched upon this place as the most suitable to his designs.

The

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The old woman was no sooner gone to execute her commission, than he went into the room and hid himself. Charlotte happened at that time to be very busy, and the Moriscoe, being in a great hurry to find her out, was met by the Sultana, who asked her, what she wanted with Charlotte. The old woman, who had not been enjoined secrecy, told her at once that there was an eunuch in the closet that wanted to speak with her. The Sultana, hearing that it was an eunuch, concluded immediately that it could be no one else than Mr. Clifford who had put on that disguise; and therefore, without any farther consideration, or asking the old woman any more questions, she took Charlotte's long cloak and went to the place appointed.

Had

## THE CAPTIVE. 161

Had she reflected the least in the world upon this message, she would not have been so grossly deceived, nor would she have exposed herself so unwittingly in the manner she did.

Her lover had never used to see her in any other place than in the room where the alcove was, nor was it likely that he so much as knew the name of the room where this appointment was made ; and, after what she already had seen of the Dey's behaviour, she ought to have mistrusted him. But people, who are so deeply enamoured as the Sultana was, are subject to make greater slips than these : she knew that Mr. Clifford was not to come thither till the evening, and yet she had been expecting him with great impatience ever since the morning, and was very uneasy

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easy in her mind to know whether he would really come or no. As the time drew nearer she did not want being put in mind to make herself ready.

Experienced women must allow that there is nothing more difficult to be practised on those occasions than discretion; and that the very name of their lovers, when they have been impatiently expecting them, has put them into an extacy, without so much as knowing whether they were really come or no.

The enamoured Sultana then permitting herself to be blindly led where she imagined love was waiting for her, ran swiftly towards the room. There was no light at all, but that did not surprize her, because there never was any in that room. She took a great pleasure  
in

## THE CAPTIVE. 163

in thinking that she should once more deceive Mr. Clifford, by appearing before him in Charlotte's stead: wherefore she at first intended to have kept silence for some time, as she had done in the garden, and thereby to have diverted herself a little: but a certain terror seized her on going in, upon which she was just on the point of returning back again; but the gallant, who was waiting for her, took her by the hand and gave her some confidence. She suffered herself to be conducted where he pleased. Accordingly he led her into the farthest part of the room, where, being desirous of making the most of his time, he began immediately to embrace her so very warmly, that he scarce left it in her power to hinder him.

These

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These proceedings seemed rather too violent to proceed from Mr. Clifford; she therefore mistrusted that it was not him, and accordingly made an effort to stop him in his career. She then discovered, but too late, that she had been deceived; and that the person she was with, had neither the stature nor face of her lover, and therefore that it must needs be the Dey; as indeed in a little while after she had no manner of doubt but it was: she therefore immediately put herself upon the defensive. This resistance, which was made after the several indulgences that had been granted him, made the lover perceive that he was discovered, and that it was no longer in his power to conceal himself; wherefore he immediately proceeded to extremities; and, putting forth his utmost strength, rendered all the Sul-  
tana's

## THE CAPTIVE. 165

tana's endeavours to the contrary ineffectual. The transported lover was at least happy in his own mind; which is a sufficient proof of the power of the imagination, and that the greatest part of human happiness proceeds from thence; and surely there is no unfortunate lover but would envy such a mistake.

The Dey's desires being thus satisfied, he retired without saying a word to the lady, who, on her side, went into her apartment as soon as she could for fear the Dey should return.

Charlotte, who had been very uneasy upon the Sultana's account, was much surprized to see her return in so disordered a condition, insomuch that she threw herself upon the bed immediately, where, between crying and laughing,

## 166 THE CAPTIVE

ing, she gave an account of the adventure that had befallen her. As to the slave she did nothing but laugh from the beginning to the end, and expected some diverting consequences, which she did not doubt would proceed from thence.

Mr. Clifford, who had been with the Dey that evening, not having found him at home, returned the next morning to acquaint him with the resolution which he had taken. He was told, upon coming into his apartment, that he had been so very ill in the night, that he had not been able to sleep a wink, and that he had given orders that no one should come into his room. However, as he was a particular friend of the Dey's, they let him in; he found  
him

## THE CAPTIVE. 167

him writing in bed, but with so melancholy a countenance, and such a change in his looks, that there were visible marks enough of his having been very ill. He was in some confusion as soon as he saw Mr. Clifford; who, kneeling down on one knee, said that he was come to beg a very particular favour of him.

“You are,” continued he, “the  
“chief cause of all the sentiments of  
“love which I now feel; it is my mis-  
“fortune that you are enamoured  
“of the same person; be pleased to  
“accept of the sacrifice that I am  
“going to make you. In short, my  
“lord, I am determined to cease love-  
“ing Charlotte; and, if you insist upon  
“it, never seeing her more.”

“What

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“What kind of love is yours?” said the Dey. “Is it possible, that two persons, who have begun to love each other with so much tenderness, can resign up their pretensions with so much ease and tranquility; and that I, who am conscious that I am not at all beloved, cannot gain the same mastery over myself? Tell me freely, Mr. Clifford, does your doing this proceed from any distaste you have taken, or from the affection you have for me?”

“No,” replied Mr. Clifford, “Charlotte appears to me in as amiable a light as ever; but sooner than suffer you to continue in the deplorable condition in which I now find you, there is nothing that I would not do in order to relieve you: and indeed it would

THE CAPTIVE. 169

“would have been much better, both  
“for my peace and yours, had I never  
“seen her.”

“This instance of friendship,” returned the Dey, “is so uncommon, that,  
“had I not been so well acquainted with  
“the generosity of your disposition as I  
“am, I could never have believed:  
“however, this note will convince you  
“that I did not stand in need of your  
“example to stir me up to it, and that  
“I can get the better of myself as well  
“as you. The note is addressed to  
“Charlotte; you may read it if you  
“think proper: you will there find that  
“I can punish myself for the injustice I  
“have been guilty of towards you. I  
“should be very sorry that so worthy

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“ a man as yourself should go away  
“ with an ill opinion of me.”

Mr. Clifford was much astonished at what he had heard, more especially as he did not know what was the reason of it; however, after an answer of the utmost reverence and respect, he took the note and read the contents, which were as follows :

“ **I**F all the affection that I feel up-  
“ on your account is not a suf-  
“ ficient justification of my conduct,  
“ yet at least it ought to be a motive  
“ with you to forgive, since it has made  
“ me suffer every thing that the utmost  
“ indignation could hope and expect. I  
“ am even now overwhelmed with grief  
“ and confusion; if then, by granting  
“ you

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“you and your lover your freedom,  
“I can in any measure repair the fault  
“I have been guilty of, you may be  
“assured that I will do it, and that you  
“shall be at your liberty to depart to-  
“morrow morning. Farewell, think  
“only of the pain that it must give me,  
“to part with two persons whom I  
“esteem so highly, and you cannot  
“surely think me unworthy of being  
“forgiven.”

Mr. Clifford was much embarrassed at the reading this letter, and it was with a good deal of difficulty that he concealed his uneasiness. He threw himself upon his knees to thank the Dey for this last proof of his kindness, which, had it been given some time sooner, would have made him as happy as he

could have wished; but which, now he was in love, he considered as the greatest misfortune that could have happened. However, he determined to conceal his sentiments, and to make him think by his behaviour that he was exceedingly pleased.

The Dey took him by the hand and lifted him up; telling him, at the same time, that he could not bear to see him in that posture, on an account in which he had more reason to complain than to be thankful; that he would acquaint him farther concerning Charlotte another time, but that, in the mean while, he had nothing to do, but to make the necessary preparations for his departure; that he had given orders to stop a ship that was sailing, and which would land him

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him at Leghorn, from whence he might easily get a passage to England; that the weather was very fair, and that he should set sail with Charlotte the very next day.

Mr. Clifford, having taken his leave of the Dey, went out of his room very much troubled with the news that he had just heard, insomuch that he wanted a place of retirement where he might ease his mind a little, and meditate on the resolution that the Dey had taken to give him his liberty, and to send Charlotte with him.

He could not conceive what was the motive of his behaviour, he concluded at length, as the note indeed gave him room to suspect, that he had been guilty

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of some violence towards Charlotte; however, this was not what he was most concerned about. What gave him the most uneasiness was, the Sultana, from whom he was so shortly to be separated, and and that too for ever. To quit for ever a woman that one loves most tenderly, to quit her at a time when affection is at the height, was a melancholy consideration, and what hardly any lover could bring himself to a resolution of doing. And yet, on the other hand, freedom, to a slave who has experienced the hardships of being in captivity, especially to one of Mr. Clifford's rank, has something very attractive in it. Besides, the returning to his native country, after a twelve months absence, and above all, the consideration that if he lost this opportunity he might never perhaps have  
another ;

## THE CAPTIVE. 175

another; all these together were such strong inducements, that they would have got the superiority in the minds of the greater part of mankind. But love got the ascendancy over all other considerations, and made him despise a freedom that would be attended with such disagreeable circumstances. However, in the present conjuncture, it was almost impossible for Mr. Clifford to refuse the Dey's offer of liberty, since it was, in all outward appearance, what he should have been most desirous of; especially too as he was to be accompanied by Charlotte, whom the Dey imagined he was deeply in love with. What reason, therefore, could he have for refusing a present of that nature, which it cost the Dey so dearly to part with, and which seem'd at least to be so agreeable

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to his utmost expectations? He could not think of any, and this was the great cause of his present despair. He saw no way to prevent his departure, unless love should hinder it, by making the Dey retract ; as indeed is no uncommon case with those who make resolutions in opposition to that passion. No slave ever wished so passionately for his liberty as Mr. Clifford did then to be continued in captivity ; choosing rather to be a slave for the remainder of his life, than to be separated for ever from what he loved infinitely better than liberty itself.

The Dey, after having spent some few hours in bed in thinking on the resolution he had taken, and in which he persisted, notwithstanding the violence he offered

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to himself, called his Aga to him, and gave the necessary orders for the departure of the two Christians, by lading the ship with a quantity of provisions, and several rich presents which he made to both. He then sent his chief eunuch to his wife the Sultana, to desire her to permit Charlotte to be free from her service, in order to return into her own country with Mr. Clifford, for reasons of as much importance to her, as necessary for him, and the quiet of both.

These orders being given, and the note before mentioned delivered to Charlotte, he took his horse, and rode to a country house about ten miles off, from whence he did not return till after midnight, having spent all that time in walking alone in the gardens, in order

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to accustom himself to bear the absence both of Charlotte and Mr. Clifford. He did not sleep a wink all night ; and in the morning, the Aga being come to return him the Sultana's answer to the request that he had made of Charlotte's freedom, he went immediately and carried it to Mr. Clifford, whom he found seemingly ready to depart, as he had commanded him, but who was never less prepared in reality ; hoping every minute that the Dey's mind would alter.

“ Well, Mr. Clifford,” said he “ we  
 “ must part, but I do not know how we  
 “ shall be able to manage matters ; for  
 “ the Sultana, who likes Charlotte full  
 “ as well as I do you, notwithstanding  
 “ I have represented how much her go-  
 “ ing

“ing would be for our mutual advantage, cannot bring herself to a resolution of parting with her. She has sent me word this morning that she will sooner part with her life than with Charlotte. You must therefore go to her, and tell her that her freedom depends only upon herself; for as to me I intend to keep my word with the greatest exactness. However, I will detain the vessel in port a little while longer, that you may not lose the opportunity of going.”

“As for that matter,” replied Mr. Clifford, “there are frequent opportunities; and therefore, as some time will be requisite either to satisfy the Sultana, or to induce her to part with

“Charlotte, we shall not be less oblig’d  
 “to you whensoever that happens, as  
 “if it were to take place at this time.”

“Mr. Clifford,” replied the Dey,  
 “the resolutions I have taken cost my  
 “heart too much not to be rendered  
 “very precarious by time. Take the  
 “advantage of the emotions that rea-  
 “son and equity at present inspire  
 “me with. I cannot answer that my  
 “sentiments will not change by any de-  
 “lay on your part. The hatred that I  
 “have of myself, on account of my  
 “own weakness, a little violence that I  
 “offered Charlotte yesterday, the shame  
 “that I should feel in seeing her after  
 “what has happened, and the little hope  
 “that I have of ever being beloved by  
 “her, are the true motives of the offer  
 “that

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“that has been made you. All this is  
“yet fresh in my mind; do not wait  
“then till I forget it, for there is no-  
“thing that is more easily forgot than  
“the injuries that we do to others.”

Whilst they were in the midst of this conversation, a tall Moriscoe man, who was Mr. Clifford's purveyor, and who had been accustomed to bring him his victuals every morning from the seraglio where he went to fetch it, came all of a sudden into the room with his great basket upon his head, not having the least suspicion, as may well be imagined, that the Dey was with him. He would fain have gone back again immediately, but the Dey beckoned to him with his hand to stay, and he did not dare to disobey him; so that he

put

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put the basket down upon the ground, and went out of the room.

The Dey, having the curiosity to see what was sent to Mr. Clifford to eat, told a slave that was in the room to lift up the cover of the basket; which being done, the only provision that was found there was a woman bundled up in a very odd manner, and who hid herself under a long cloak that she might not be known. Her dress was after the Christian manner, the same which both the Dey and Mr. Clifford had frequently seen Charlotte in, and from whence they both immediately concluded that it could be no other than her.

The Dey was a good deal surprized at first; but after some time laughing it  
it

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it off, "I own," said he, "that this  
"contrivance is amazing, and infinitely  
"above the reach of the women of this  
"country. Love, who is the author  
"of invention, must certainly have  
"suggested it. However, certain it is,  
"nothing could happen that could con-  
"tribute more to the scheme we have in  
"agitation than this. But shall we not  
"examine this provision a little closer?  
"Madam, you are here with the two  
"best friends you can have; do not  
"therefore make any scruple of letting  
"us see you."

Having said this he drew nearer, and would fain have taken her by the arm in order to assist her in getting up, but she made some resistance, and would not suffer him to touch her.

"I am convinced, madam," continued the Dey, "that you have not  
 "granted me the pardon which I re-  
 "quested of you. I own that the of-  
 "fence is very great; but, consider, you  
 "are going from me: let us there-  
 "fore at least part good friends, as it  
 "would be matter of great concern to  
 "me to see you quit this country so in-  
 "censed against me as you are at pre-  
 "sent. Do not refuse me this favour,"  
 added he, holding out his hand to  
 her at the same time; "do not refuse  
 "this favour to one who is already so  
 "deeply afflicted at the recollection of  
 "having offended you, and who is  
 "punishing himself sufficiently; so that  
 "there is no need of your adding this  
 "last piece of cruelty."

Notwithstanding

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Notwithstanding all this, the lady did not seem to relent; on the contrary, she wrapped herself closer in the cloak than before, on purpose to render all their attempts to see her ineffectual. He forbore pressing her any farther; and turning about to Mr. Clifford, told him that the making up this affair depended entirely upon him, and that therefore he ought to intreat Charlotte to permit herself to be seen this once, since it was the last time. Mr. Clifford was a little angry that she should be so scrupulous towards one to whom she owed such great obligations. But besides this, it was his particular interest to induce her to shew herself just at this period of time, for it was his last resource; and he was not without hope but that, when the Dey saw her, his resolution of parting with her would forsake

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fake him, and he might alter his resolution. Upon this, he went up to her, and offered all the arguments he could think of to induce her to come to a reconciliation with the Dey, and consequently to permit him to have one view of her ; but it was all in vain, there was not a single word spoke in reply : at which being a little nettled, after having taken her by the arm two or three times in order to make her rise, he was just going to pull off her cloak from her by force. He threatened that he would, but the Dey would not permit him, and told him that no restraint should be put upon her ; that she had sufficient reason to complain already, and that he would not therefore be the cause of any farther violence being offered her.

“ Let

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“ Let us embrace this opportunity,”  
continued he, “ and since she is now  
“ here, and we have nothing to do but  
“ to put her on board, let us complete  
“ what has already been begun. I dare  
“ say Charlotte will not be concerned  
“ at all at leaving such a country as this,  
“ more especially when she finds that  
“ you have accompanied her. In all  
“ probability the Sultana is as yet asleep,  
“ let us therefore convey her away be-  
“ fore she wakes and misses her. She  
“ must be carried to the ship inclosed  
“ in this basket as she is ; you shall go  
“ with her, and as soon as ever you get  
“ on board you shall set sail. As to  
“ myself I will go and spend the rest  
“ of the day at my country house, and  
“ will give the necessary orders, that if  
“ the Sultana should miss Charlotte,  
“ and perceive that she has given her  
“ the

“the ship, it may not be in her power  
“to retard her journey.”

As soon as he had said this, he sent a Moriscoe slave to the port with orders to make ready a sloop in order to carry Mr. Clifford and Charlotte to a vessel that was then waiting for them in the bay. He then sent for the captain of his guards, whom he ordered to escort Mr. Clifford, and to take care that the basket was carried and put safely into the ship.

These orders being given, and having now nothing else to do, but to take his leave of Mr. Clifford, he embraced him with tears in his eyes, and accompanying him himself to the ship, he went from thence to his country house, as he had said he would, full of grief and

## THE CAPTIVE. 189

and regret at parting with one for whom he had so great an esteem.

Mr. Clifford, however, seemingly was more to be pitied. He did not find much difficulty in expressing the pain it gave him to part ; but he was so wrapt up in the Sultana, whom he desired to see once more, that he did not feel the reluctance that he otherwise would have done at parting with one to whom he lay under so many obligations. With respect to her, his heart was so full, now that he saw there was no hope of seeing her, and that he must necessarily leave her, that he could not say a single word. The tears ran plentifully down his cheeks, with which the good Dey was much affected, and applauded his own conduct exceedingly in having got the better of himself, for the sake of  
one

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one who was not ungrateful, and who, he plainly saw, had a regard for him. In short, he saw him embark, and gave him the last farewell.

The afflicted Mr. Clifford was so overwhelmed with grief, that from the port to the bay, giving himself a little more liberty than he had presumed to do in the presence of the Dey, he said so many tender things, casting his eyes at the same time towards the city, that the captain of the guards and the others that accompanied him were much astonished and affected. Luckily for him they did not understand English, which was the language in which he spoke to himself; but his gestures, looks, and the colour of his face, denoted a sorrow and concern the like to which they had never seen before.

As

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As soon as he got to the vessel, he threw himself upon a bed, so entirely taken up with the melancholy thoughts that oppressed him, that he never once thought of the basket; but the captain of the guards took care of that, and having ordered it to be carried into his room, he took his leave of him, and giving orders to the captain to set sail immediately, he returned to Tunis in the boat that had brought them.

It was then that Mr. Clifford, finding himself quite alone, gave himself up to the indulging his grief.

“ Oh fate !” cried he, “ cruel fate !  
“ what have I done to deserve this treatment; to tear me from onewhom I love  
“ so tenderly? oh my Sultana, my dear  
“ Sultana ! must I then leave you, must I  
“ for

“for ever be separated from you? for  
 “ever? repeated he,” getting up.  
 “Ah! rather let me be set on shore again;  
 “I shall find a sufficient excuse to  
 “make to the Dey. Let me rather  
 “trust love than fortune; she has be-  
 “trayed me, and let what will happen  
 “I can only die, and I should choose  
 “that that should happen, when near  
 “the object of my affections, sooner  
 “than life, when separated from her.

Just as he had said this he determined  
 to see, whether they had weigh’d an-  
 chor; when, alas! he found that they  
 were at a great distance from shore,  
 almost out of sight of the bay. It  
 is easy to judge of his despair upon this.

“Well,” said he, “thou fond and  
 “foolish heart, is there no remedy?

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"must I perish? Adorable Sultana!" added he, taking out his sword, "I am guilty of consenting to this departure, receive, therefore, the sacrifice I make you of my life."

He then drew his sword, and was just going to run himself through, when, all of a sudden, the person that was in the basket, and who had heard every syllable that he had said, threw herself upon him to prevent him.

"Permit me, madam," said he, "permit me to finish a life which can only be unhappy, when removed at such a distance from all that I hold dear."

"Oh my dear Mr. Clifford!" said the lady, embracing him with great tenderness,

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ness,

ness, without being able to say any thing farther, so oppressed was she with joy.

Mr. Clifford, notwithstanding the affliction he was in, thinking he heard a different voice from that of Charlotte's, turned aside to see who it was that thus held him in her arms, when, to his agreeable surprize, he found that it was no other than the Sultana herself.

“Heaven's!” cry'd he, “madam, is  
 “it you? Is it you?” repeated he with  
 an eagerness that denoted his joy and  
 wonder. “Is it possible that I should  
 “behold you just at the time when I  
 “thought I had lost you for ever?  
 “What a happiness is this! but am I  
 “indebted to accident or to love?”

“The

## THE CAPTIVE. 195

“The design,” replied she, “is owing to love; the success of that design to fortune.”

The lover could not help wondering at this amazing adventure; but having satisfied a little the emotions of his heart, which passed from the most piercing grief to the greatest joy and rapture, he deferred the clearing up of the whole till another time.

The wind was favourable, the ship sailed very well, they were entirely out of danger, at least so far as it is possible for persons to be who are upon that unsettled and wavering element, where the winds are masters in a manner of men's lives as well as of their intentions. They enjoyed one another's company extremely;

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ly; in short, two lovers were never so happy.

The Dey's captain being arrived at Tunis, mounted his horse and went to his master's country house, where he found him walking alone in the garden. He gave him a full account of Mr. Clifford's departure, upon which he lifted up his hands and eyes to heaven as if he had been left quite desolate; and, without saying a word to him, he retired to a Summer house that was in the middle of the garden, where he staid all day. He ordered his guards not to let any one come near him, let them come upon what pretence soever, being willing to free himself by that means from the importunity which he expected from the Sultana with respect to Charlotte. His people were all amazed, and could attribute

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attribute his displeasure to no other cause but the departure of the Christian. On the evening an eunuch brought him a letter, after that a second and then a third, all of whom said they had particular business with the Dey: however, they were told the orders that had been given, which they did not dare to disobey, and therefore they contented themselves with staying till he pleased to come out of his apartment.

The Turks very religiously observe the commands of their Princes, but Ali (that was the name of the captain of the guards) who judged of the importance of the message by the number of messengers which had been commissioned to deliver it, thought it was his duty to go himself to the city,

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which was but three miles off, to know what was the matter. He mounted his horse and got there presently, upon which he went to the general of the gallies, who was the person that had dispatched these several couriers. The General sent him back again immediately with an exprefs order to fpeak to the Dey, and to tell him from him that his prefence was abfolutely requifite at Tunis if he had a mind to defeat the defigns of his enemies, who had moft af- furedly been plotting againft his life. Ali, who faw the importance that this affair was of, made no fcruple, as foon as he returned, of prefenting himfelf before his mafter; who, incenfed againft him for having difobeyed the orders that he had given, would neither hear what he had got to fay, nor read the letter he had brought him from the  
General

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General of the gallies, but, shutting himself up in his closet, he staid there till evening, at which time he returned to the city. He there received several letters from different people, none of which did he open, imagining that they either came from the Sultana, or from people whom she had interrested in her behalf.

The General, much surprized at not seeing him, after what he had informed him of the conspiracy that was forming against him, was resolved to go to his country house, to know what was the reason; but, as he was going, he met the Dey, who, seeing him come towards him with a number of attendants, asked him whether he thought that he was besieged, by his having brought such a train along with him. The General

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said,

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said, "You are pleased to jest, my lord;  
" but heaven grant that, before we ar-  
" rive at Tunis, we may not stand in  
" need of greater assistance than this."

The Dey, perceiving that he spoke  
this very seriously, looked at him atten-  
tively without saying a word. And  
then, as if recollecting himself, said,  
"Why should we need such mighty suc-  
" cour? Have they a mind," continued  
he, (growing warm) "to insult me?  
"and all this perhaps on the Sultana's  
"account?"

"Do you not think, Sir," said the  
General, "they have sufficient reason  
"for so doing? and can you imagine  
"that such a prince as her father, who  
"is your mortal enemy, notwithstand-  
"ing all pretended reconciliation, can  
"suffer

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"suffer such injuries as you have offered him to go unpunished? He, too, who is so fond of his daughter?"

"What injury have I done him?" said the Dey.

"What injury!" returned the General, "you could not, in my opinion, have been guilty of a more cruel or aggravating one."

"What!" replied the Dey, "shall it not be in my power to release a couple of slaves whensoever I please?"

"No body," said the General, "disputes your right to do this in the least; but then consider that the Sultana is no slave, and that honour, justice, religion,

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“ligion, and all the maxims both of  
 “policy and good manners, forbid your  
 “preferring a Christian to your wife,  
 “unless you have a mind indeed to em-  
 “broil yourself and the state in a civil  
 “war; and farther, to deliver her up  
 “into the hands of a Christian, which is  
 “one of the greatest misfortunes that  
 “can happen to a woman of our  
 “faith.”

The Dey thought all his friend  
 said, so very extravagant, and out  
 of the way, that he did not vouch-  
 safe to give an answer, but laugh-  
 ing at his fears, told him that he had  
 taken the alarm too soon. The other  
 replied, somewhat warmly, that the  
 Dey knew him too well to be alarmed  
 with needless fears; and that when they  
 should arrive at Tunis he would have  
 sufficient

sufficient reason to be convinced of the truth of all he had said.

“ If the Sultana’s father has a mind  
 “ to quarrel with me,” returned the  
 Dey, “ he will surely seek out some  
 “ more plausible pretence than that  
 “ which you have mentioned. It is  
 “ true, indeed, that I have sent away  
 “ Charlotte with the Christian, contrary  
 “ to the express desire and inclination of  
 “ the Sultana ; but I have particular  
 “ reasons for my behaviour, and those  
 “ reasons too are of such a nature, that  
 “ the Sultana ought to be more pleased  
 “ with them than any one else.”

The General of the gallies now thought that the Dey had a mind to ridicule him, and that he affected to keep as a secret what was known throughout

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the city, infomuch that he began to be very much offended, and would not have said a word more about the matter, if the Dey had not still dwelt upon and gone on with it.

“ But my lord,” interrupted the General, “ what pleasure do you take in  
 “ concealing or at least in endeavouring  
 “ to conceal from me, who am one of  
 “ your oldest and most faithful servants,  
 “ a transaction which is at present  
 “ known by every body? Every one  
 “ knows,” continued he, “ that Charlotte remains still in the seraglio, and  
 “ that the Sultana is shipped off, together with the Christian slave. And  
 “ moreover, it is currently reported  
 “ that it is for the sake of Charlotte that  
 “ you have thus got rid of your wife,  
 “ and that you have determined to  
 “ marry

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“marry her, notwithstanding she is a  
“Christian. But, besides that such a  
“thing was never heard of in this king-  
“dom, and that the Dey of Algiers  
“and the Divan will oppose it with all  
“their might, I can even undertake to  
“say that even your friends will be  
“much against you in the affair, nay  
“that there will not be so much as a  
“single one on your side.”

The Dey, as soon as he heard him talking in this manner, thought he had a mind to make a jest of him, and would have treated him accordingly, but, that being his friend, he was determined not to use him ill; however, interrupting him, “Is this Charlotte that you have  
“been speaking of, whom I saw carried  
“in a basket, and even accompanied  
“her to the shore where she was put  
“into

“into a boat, and whom my captain of  
 “the guards conducted to the ship, and  
 “saw them set sail; is this the Char-  
 “lotte that you say is in the seraglio,  
 “and whom I have, as you pretend, taken  
 “a resolution to marry?”

“My lord,” said the General, “if I  
 “was not very well acquainted with  
 “you, and were I not persuaded of the  
 “sincerity of the friendship which you  
 “are pleased to entertain for me, I  
 “should really be at a loss to under-  
 “stand what you have been saying to  
 “me; for you ought, certainly, to be  
 “acquainted with the particulars of  
 “this affair better than any one; how-  
 “ever, to end the dispute, let us go  
 “towards the seraglio, and you will  
 “then be convinced whether it is Char-  
 “lotte or the Sultana that is there.”

It

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It was not long before they got there. The Dey, who did not believe a syllable of what the General had been telling him, would not so much as send to the seraglio to enquire whether what he had heard was true or not; because he imagined, that he exposed himself to ridicule by taking the least notice of what had been told him. However at length, out of complaisance, and in a jesting manner, he sent Ali to the Sultana with his compliments, making, at the same time, some excuse for not having complied with her request in relation to Charlotte. The captain of the guards, who never imagined that his master was ignorant of what was going forwards, considered this order as a finesse of his, and being willing to shew himself a man of address and quick penetration, he went to the seraglio, where  
he

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He heard, (what he indeed knew before) that there was only Charlotte there, and came and brought back to the Dey a very civil message as coming from the Sultana. This put the General into a good deal of confusion, and gave the Dey an opportunity of laughing at the long perplexed account that he had been giving him, telling him that he was wholly unacquainted with the Sultana's father, who purposely propagated reports of this kind, to draw upon him the odium of the people, and to have an opportunity of prejudicing him in the opinion of his friends, and thereby of stirring up a powerful party against him: however, that he should take care to prevent these mischievous designs having any effect; that his first intention was to bring the Sultana to the public view, and then to send him home, desiring

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desiring neither alliance or friendship with a man who was continually seeking opportunities to destroy him.

While they were thus discoursing together, they heard a great noise all of a sudden in the palace, which was followed by the discharge of some muskets and the cries of a number of people. The Dey was going out of his apartment to see what was the matter, when he met Ali, who was just coming to tell him that his palace was surrounded on all sides, and that he was apprehensive the people were going to break in. The Dey, who was a very bold man, and who, upon the greatest emergencies, had an admirable presence of mind, seeing that he had not a sufficient number of troops with him to make any resistance, and hearing that  
they

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they threatened to set fire to the building, unless the doors were immediately opened, ordered his men to cry out at the window that they were going to be opened, with an intention that those who surrounded it, the greater part of whom were only come for the sake of plunder, running on the one side that he might have the better opportunity of escaping through a private door which he had. This scheme succeeded to the utmost of his wishes, and by this contrivance he escaped the hands of his enemies, who would not have been very favourable to him if they could have caught him. He, together with the General and Captain of his guards, ran towards the mountains, whence, having given notice to the Moriscoes who inhabit them, and of whom he was exceedingly beloved, that he stood in need of their

## THE CAPTIVE. 211

their assistance. They came to him that very night, and he found himself, by break of day, at the head of eight thousand men, some of whom were armed with muskets, the other part with half pikes, which they are very dextrous in using.

Poor Charlotte was the only person left to the mercy of this impetuous mob, who, having pillaged all the treasures of that valuable house, entered without any regard either to place or sex into the seraglio, (because the Prince, that is to say, the Sultana's father, had given them orders so to do) and took away Charlotte, leaving the rest of the women to the discretion of the plunderers.

It was Charlotte's good fortune, that he, who had a commission to take her, was

## 212 THE CAPTIVE.

was a man of great honour, a secret friend of the Dey's, and shewed her as much tenderness as one in her circumstances could possibly expect or desire. She was carried to the castle, where the Prince committed her to the custody of the same person. This was no other than his secretary, a man held in great estimation of the whole council. As he was the only person that had access to this girl, and as he could easily talk to her without any danger of being overheard, he told her, in confidence, that the Dey, whose behaviour till then had been unexceptionable, had committed a fault which it was out of his power to repair, and which was highly censured, even by his best friends, but that he was sadly afraid the weight of the whole misfortune would fall upon her.

This

## THE CAPTIVE. 213

This poor slave, who had already been greatly alarmed at all that she had seen, at having been thus taken out of the seraglio by force, and in finding herself the Prince's prisoner, was a good deal frightened at what she had heard from this Turk, who appeared to her to be a very worthy, sensible, good natured man. She desired him to acquaint her with the several particulars, as likewise what she was to blame in.

"If you do not really know," said he, "what has happened to day, I am going to inform you. I believe you are acquainted with Melinda, or at least that you have heard of her. Every body is convinced of the perverseness of her mind; but in this instance, what she has alledged has been supported by such strong arguments,

## 214 THE CAPTIVE.

" ments, and convincing proofs, that  
 " her malice has produced the effects  
 " she desired. I know not, indeed,  
 " whether she was jealous of you, or  
 " dissatisfied with the Dey, but she is  
 " the true cause of all this confusion,  
 " and which will indeed prove the de-  
 " struction of this kingdom, unless it is  
 " timely prevented. The Prince was  
 " playing at chess, when a servant came  
 " in and told him that a lady belonging  
 " to the seraglio wanted to speak with  
 " him, upon an affair of the last import-  
 " ance. He immediately left off play-  
 " ing and retired into his own apart-  
 " ment, in order to give audience to  
 " the lady. He soon saw Melinda, at-  
 " tended by two eunuchs who supported  
 " her, while she kneeled down and  
 " spoke to him as follows." " My  
 " lord, I am come to acquaint you with

## THE CAPTIVE. 215

“a very melancholy piece of news,  
“and which I doubt not will be matter  
“of great grief to you. But if I de-  
“serve death for not being able to bear  
“the injury that has been done to part  
“of your family, and indeed to the  
“whole nation without telling it you,  
“I am contented to die, provided you  
“repair it. In short, your daughter is  
“gone from hence, she has been given  
“up to the Christian slave, who  
“set out this morning, and another  
“slave has been substituted in her  
“room, who will be a great disgrace  
“both to you and us. Avenge your-  
“self then of the chief cause of this dis-  
“order, and execute the justice that is  
“due to so vile an attempt, which strikes  
“at once against God, your family, and  
“the honour of your country.”

“ Scarce

## 214 THE CAPTIVE.

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“ Scarce

216 THE CAPTIVE.

“ Scarce had she finished this account  
 “ when the Prince, transported with  
 “ rage at what he had heard, called those  
 “ who were in his antichamber, and be-  
 “ ing scarce able to speak for passion,  
 “ he made Melinda repeat before them  
 “ what she had been telling him. Un-  
 “ fortunately, the people he called were  
 “ the Dey’s most bitter enemies, and  
 “ therefore, instead of endeavouring to  
 “ appease him, aggravated the injury,  
 “ and stirred him up to take immediate  
 “ vengeance for the affront. The Prince  
 “ immediately sent some women and  
 “ eunuchs to the seraglio to enquire in-  
 “ to the truth of the affair, and they all  
 “ agreed in the same account, that the  
 “ Sultana was not to be found, and that  
 “ no body knew what was become of  
 “ her; that no one had seen her go out,  
 “ and that therefore you, madam, must  
 “ be

THE CAPTIVE. 217

“ be the only person that could possibly  
“ give any account of her. After this,  
“ people were sent to the bay, to enquire  
“ of the officers of the customs, whether  
“ they had not found a woman in the  
“ Christian ship which had sailed that  
“ morning, but word was brought back  
“ that the ship had sailed without un-  
“ dergoing the usual search, which was  
“ omitted by the Dey’s particular or-  
“ ders, who had himself accompanied  
“ the Christian that went on board it,  
“ to the sea-side. All these circum-  
“ stances taken together were so full  
“ and strong that they proved but too  
“ well the truth of what Melinda had  
“ asserted. Upon this, several consul-  
“ tations were held, and as the mem-  
“ bers of this assembly were in gene-  
“ ral very ill affected towards the  
VOL. I. L Dey,

218 THE CAPTIVE.

“ Dey, at least very zealous in the  
 “ Prince’s interest, they concluded up-  
 “ on taking immediate vengeance. I  
 “ am surprized that the Dey was not  
 “ sooner informed of it, for the report  
 “ ran throughout the city in a very  
 “ short time. They designed at first  
 “ to have surprized him at his coun-  
 “ try house, where they imagined he  
 “ would have lain all night, but find-  
 “ ing that he intended to return, the  
 “ Prince’s Aga had orders to go and  
 “ assault his palace, to take him, whe-  
 “ ther dead or alive, and to go into  
 “ the seraglio and bring you off.  
 “ They missed the Dey, which is very  
 “ fortunate for him and you too, for  
 “ for had he been taken you would  
 “ both have been put to death by this  
 “ time; but as he has got the militia

“ on

## THE CAPTIVE. 219

“on his side, and a powerful army of  
“Moriscoe’s, he will make the Prince  
“afraid of him, and by that means he  
“will be able to deliver you out of all  
“danger.”

The miserable Charlotte, who was already but too well accustomed to the pressures of fortune, did nothing but sigh at the consideration of the troubles which seemed to be coming apace towards her. She knew with what little reason the Dey could be accused of being privy to the Sultana’s going away, and therefore, thinking that the Dey’s justification would be of no small service to her, she told the Turk that her master was not so much to blame as he imagined:

I know

220 THE CAPTIVE.

“ I know not,” continued she, “ what  
“ is become of the Sultana since she  
“ went out of the feraglio this morn-  
“ ing; but, however, as you seem to  
“ be my friend, I will tell you in  
“ few words, what I know of the  
“ matter.”

END OF VOL. I.

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